

Salus Britannica:
OR, THE
SAFETY
OF THE
Protestant Religion,
Against all the present
APPREHENSIONS
OF
POPERY

Fully Discust and Proved.

Wherein all the Popular Fears, and Imaginary
Dangers, are wholly Dissipated and Confuted, a-
gainst all Objections whatever.



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P O P E R Y.



CREAT and Terrible have been the pretended Dangers of *Popery*, especially for some late Years; and Indefatigable have been the *Arts* and *Sorceries* of *Faction* and *Willany* to conjure up this Hideous *Apparition*, to fright the deluded Multitude, both out of their *Wits* and their *Allegiance*. But not to Insist much upon the *Grosser Impostures* of Fanatical *Incendaries*, such as the Old most *Impudent* Cheat of turning both the Best of *PROTESTANT-KINGS*, and a *Protestant CHURCH* it self into *Popish* and *Antichristian*; hoping that the most *Vulgar Eyes* and *Humblest Capacities* have fully seen through so Diabolical a *Delusion*: However, as there still remains upon some Weaker Understandings, and Unsatisfied Minds, a Terror yet unvanquish'd; The business of this Treatise is to Examine what *National Operation* or *Influence* a Real *Popish* Crown'd Head can have over the *Lives*, *Liberties* or *Estatts* of *Englishmen*, as now *Enjoy'd*, and the Religion of the Kingdom, as at present *Establish'd*; and by confuting even the most *Substantial* of their Imagin'd Dangers, dissipate those *False Fears* of *Popery*, which no Man possibly (I mean in my humble Station) has more unhappily rais'd than my self.

The wonderful *State-Convulsions* that *Popery* (or rather the *Sophistry* of Scriblers upon that *Theme*) seems to threaten, are no where, I confess, more *Spighfully*, more *Venemously*, or indeed (considering the *weakness* of the *Cause*) more *Artfully* described than in that Libel, called, *The Character of a Popish Successor*. But not to answer particularly to a *Rapsody* of *Rhetorical Flourishes*, a Tautology of *Gay Words* and *Big Sounds* to little or no *Signification*; which indeed is almost the *whole Jargon* of that Pamphlet, being truly the *Best Reason* the *Subject* would bear; I shall chiefly Reply only to the *Argumentative* Part of it; or at least, that which was *intended* as such.

Therefore as this following Discourse will naturally fall under these two Heads, *viz.* If *Popery* be ever *Introduced*, it can have only these Two Doors for its *Admission*, *Persecution*, or *Persuasion*, I shall accordingly Examine,

First, What Progress towards a *National Conversion*, and the *Establishment* of *Popery*, the *CRUELTY* and *TYRANNY* of it under a *Popish Successor* is able to make, by an Assault on the *Weak Side* of Mankind their *Cowardice*.

And Secondly, What Advance towards the *forefaid Conversion*, &c. the *SUBTILTY* and *ELOQUENCE* of *Popish Emissaries*, and *Jesuitical Seducers*, under the *Umbrage* and *Encouragement* of a *Popish Successor* are likely to work, by an Attaque on the *Blind Side* of Mankind their *Ignorance*.

To begin then with the *First* of the two, as the more *Horrible Horn* of the *Beast*; *Persecution*. The Character is not a little prolix on that old Popular *Arch-Devil Arbitrary Power*, whilst *POPERY* and *SLAVERY*, those always *Twin Monsters*, those *Never Seperable Feinds* are so Painted to the Life, with all their *Fire* and *Brimstone* round them, that it has little else from the

Beginning to the End, but the Ratling of Chains, the Crackling of Flames, the Blazing of Smithfield Piles; and in fine, the universal Groans of Destruction and Desolation through the whole Land.

And for an *unanswerable* Demonstration of all those most certain Calamities from a *Popish Successor*. The Character tells you, that in the first place, the *Romish Principles* are such, That they value neither their Word, Promise, Vows, Oaths, nor Sacraments, but all their strongest Engagements are lighter than the very Breath that utters them. Next, That they so little Consult either their Reputation or Glory, that there is not the most Abject Thing, that even Crown'd Heads themselves shall not undertake, when Rome, or Romes Interest shall command. And Lastly, That the putting all this Barbarity into Execution, is so highly Meritorious in the *Romish Church*, that the Pope will undoubtedly assign him no Common Diadem in Paradise for this Undertaking. But upon his Remissness or Tenderness in this Point, bethunder him with so many Curses and Anathema's, as, an Undutiful, Unactive Son of Holy Mother Church, a Scandal to her Glory, a Traytor to her Interest, a Deserter of her Cause; One while accusing the Lukewarmness of his Religion; another while, the Pusillanimity of his Nature, &c. till in short, To spare a Faggot in Smithfield, he does little less than walk upon Burning Irons himself.

But how is it likely, that Romes continual Bulls (as the Character fancies) shall Bellow so loud against a *Popish Successor* for sparing a Faggot in Smithfield, when under the Infamy and Execution of so Tyrannick a Murderer (for what in Queen Maries days was the Sentence of Justice, and the Legal Execution of the Law, must now be the highest Subversion of Justice, and Abrogation of Law) he must expose himself to the whole World as a greater Sponser than NERO; so much a greater than He, as Nero's Barbarities were committed under the Ignorance and Darkness of Infidelity and Paganism, and this Mans Murders and Butcheries under the Light of the Gospel: Nay, the terrible Burning, Broylng, and Roasting denounced in the Character, with the Heating of *Popish fiery Furnaces* like Nebuchadnezers seven times Hotter than ordinary, with all the rest of the *Romantick Popish Throat-cutting*, will be ten times worse from a *Popish Successor* than the whole Ten Primitive Christian Persecutions. For a Nero, Caligula, Domitian, and the rest of them, as they had the Law in their own Breath, and a Sic volo, sic jubeo, was as much Authentick in old Heathen Rome, as an Act of Parliament in little England; and consequently, how Barbarous soever the Christian Persecution was, yet it had the Face of Law, as being the Edict of the Absolute Prince, and thereby the Ordinance of the very Government. But such a Scheme of Cruelty here, as being beyond the Reach of the Perogative, and notoriously contrary to the Establish'd Constitution of the Kingdom, would, *Ipso facto*, be Ten Times more dreadfully Flagitious, as 'tis the highest Violation of Law, and Dissolution of Government. And whatever Opinion the noysie Fools of Mankind may have Imbibed of Jesuitism, Papism, and all the Chimerical Terrors from Rome, how can that very Rome (if it pretends but to Christianity) that has Canoniz'd so many of those Suffering Primitive Martyrs, at the same time likewise make Saints of really worse Monsters amongst themselves than the very Heathen Butchers of those very Martyrs.

'Tis true Inquisition-Houses, Lollards-Towers, and the Cruelty of Fire and Faggot we know have been frequent: but all this while they were never Erected by Standing ARMIES, Arbitrary CUT-THROATS, nor Military EXECUTION, but Establish'd by the Legislative Power of the Respective Governments that used them, and consequently Introduced with the Solemn Institution of Law, as a necessary Support of the Community: Neither has it been a Practice singular only to the *Popists*, to secure the Establish'd Religion, and thereby the Peace of the Civil Government by Capital Punishments, when the Protestant Government has done the like.

For Example, does not the Character instance two several Acts of Parliament; one of Queen Elizabeth, in which, not only the *Popish Priests*, that shall have taken Orders from Rome, and afterwards Return to England, but likewise all Persons withdrawn by them from the Protestant Religion Establish'd, to a Reconciliation to the Church of Rome, are Equally Guilty of High-Treason, and to suffer as in Cases of Treason--- And a Second Act of Henry the VIII. In which the Refusal of the Oath of Henery's Supremacy in Renunciation of the Pope, was also made High-Treason.

Now if every *Popist* in England, without lifting a Hand, uttering a Word, or imagining the least Disloyal Thought against his Lawful Sovereign, his Crown and Dignity, or against the Peace of the Nation where he's a Subject, yet nevertheless out of a point of Conscience and meer matter of Faith, cannot be induced to believe a Temporal Prince capable of being Head of a Church, but is Invincibly perswaded (how Erronious soever) that the Pope is Peters undoubted Successor, and Christs unquestioned Vicar upon Earth, and cannot, without hazard of his Soul, so much as consent to acknowledge otherwise; yet notwithstanding, by the Protestant Laws of the Land, this Invincible Perswasion, without any other Crime, is Interpreted High-Treason, and Punish'd as such. Now I say, in this case, what wonderous Difference is there between the Rigour of a *Popish* or a *Protestant* Constitution? This, that makes a Desertion from their Church Establish'd, TREASON; and the other from theirs. HERESY: This that punnishes an Apostate with Hanging and Quartering at Tyburn; and the other with Burning at Smithfield. 'Tis true, the Branch of Queen Elizabeths Statute that concerns the *Popish Laymans High-Treason* was never yet put in Execution; and I hope, for the Glory of the Reformation Establish'd by that Illustrious Princess, as so extremely Sanguinary, was never intended to be, being severe enough to give our *Popish Enemies* a Matter of Recrimination, though Enacted but in Terrorum.

But

But here I beg the Reader to be assured, that I urge not this Comparifon in Disparagement of our *Protestant Laws*, but only to fatisfie the Miftaken Part of Mankind, that all fuch *Judicial Severities* under the Government of both Religions have been introduced by the moft *Awful* and *Sacred Authority*, of the rightful *Law-Makers* of the Nations, and confequently in the Englifh Conftitution, not only the King's, but the People's *Acts* and *Decrees*; and fo to convince them of the *unreafonableneſs* of that fenfeleſs *Surmiſe*, that upon the Admiſſion of a *popiſh* Succeſſour, all the forementioned Cruelties, though without any ſuch Induction of Law (and confequently, with all the *Injuſtice*, *Rapine*, and Cold-blooded *Murder*, even to that formal Solemnity of *Butchery*, that humane Imagination would tremble at) *muſt* and *ſhall* be introduced. For alas! how ridiculously extravagant muſt thoſe *Fears* be, that can addle Men's Senſes into a Dread of that *prodigious* Stroke from *Popery*, that was never given to it ſince the Creation. What *Magnifying Glaſſes* therefore muſt the popular *Fears* ſee through, to behold ſuch *Stupendious* Viſions of Popery, as that *THAT ſhall be* that *N.E.V.E.R.* was, whiſt a Popiſh Crown'd Head in *England* muſt be the firſt, nay, only *Royal* *Spa*ge of a *Papiſt* that ever Reign'd.

However for once let us ſuppoſe the *Devil* and *Pope* as familiar together as ever they were painted at a *Queen Elizabeth's* Night, and that this *Goffel-propagation* were really the *Doctrine* of his pretended *Infallibility*, and this *Bloody Mandate* to a popiſh Succeſſour the ſpecial *Edict* of the whole *CONSISTORY*, what would the Execution of that *Mandate* make towards the *Growth* or *Advancement* of *Popery*? God knows, ſo far from promoting the *Romiſh* Religion, that poſſibly there wants but that one Attempt to *ſhame* it almoſt out of the World.

For in the firſt place, 'tis ſo far from a way or means to *Convert* even one Soul in *England*, that 'tis the only Courſe to increaſe their *Abhorrence* and *Execration* of that Religion, and bring the very *THOUGHT* of Popery even below *Damnation*. 'Twould no more make *Converts* to *Rome*, than the old *Heathen Caldrons* and *Gridirons* to *Paganifm*: For as the greateſt prejudice of Engliſhmen againſt Popery lyes in their *Horror* of the *Cruelties* of it: ſo confequently nothing can contribute to the *Advancement* of it but the *Clemency* and *Mercy* of its Profeſſours to reconcile us even into meer *Charity* with them: whiſt the Exercifing of the forementioned *unexampled* Barbarities would make us fall from our preſent *Ill Opinion* of Popery as a *Corrupted Church*, to believe it no *Church* at all, but rather an *Aſſociation* of *Honiſters*, and a *Den* of *Cannibals* and *Tygers*: and the greateſt Operation ſuch *unprecedented* Cruelty could meet, were at beſt but to fright the frighted People into a *ſuperficial*, *counterfeit* Compliance, and make them *Temporize* a little, only to compound for their *Lives*; yet that *Temporizing* under ſo *Villanous* a Perſecution, would be ſo far from a *True Conversion*, or any thing like it, that they'd only play the *Higheſt* of *Hypocrites*, come perhaps to *Maſs* to mutter *Curſes* inſtead of *Ave-Mary's*; or be hunted into the *Popiſh Fold*, only to pray for a favourable *Opportunity* of having a pull at the *Throats* of the *Wolves* that drive them thither.

And Secondly, Beſides the *Impotent Effects*, 'tis certain to find towards the *Heretick Conversion*: the *Pope's* Command, nay indeed, *Connivance* at any ſuch *Arbitrary*, *Tyrannick* *Stake-burning*, or *Throat-cutting* from a *Popiſh* Succeſſour, inſtead of *advancing* of Popery by ſo *excentrick* a Motion, will be enough to *ſtagger* half the popiſh Hearts in *Chriſtendom*; for as *Implicit* as the *Faith* of the *Romiſh* Zealors is, and as intirely devoted as they are to their *Peter's Chair*, and *Mother-Church*, undoubtedly there are *Thousands* of them, that notwithstanding they can diſgeſt a *Wafer* for a *GOD*, can never be wrought to believe the *Transubſtantiation* of ſuch viſible *Tyranny* and *Butchery* into *Righteouſneſs* and *Chriſtianity*, how Zealous ſoever they may be for the *Conversion* of ſo *Heretical* a Nation as *England*.

And that this would be the *Infallible* Conſequence of all ſuch *Barbarous* *Popiſh* Meaſures: they that will but look back to the *Annals* of *Queen Mary*, will find *Historians* telling us, That nothing ſo much advanced the *Reformation* as the *Miftaken* Conduct of *Queen Mary* and her bloody *Counſellers* in that point. And *Dr. Burnet* expreſſy aſſures us, *That the whole Body of the Nation* grew to diſlike the *Cruelty* of *Rome* [Abridg. Book the 3d. Pag. 275.] to that degree, that the *popiſh Biſhops* for their *Apology* threw it off from Themſelves, and openly laid it on the *King's* and *Queen's* Commands; inſomuch that *King Phillip*, for his *Excuse*, made his *Confellour* preach a *Sermon* at Court againſt the taking of people's *Lives* for their *Opinions* in Religion, and inveighed againſt the *Biſhops* for doing it. By which means a ſtop was put to it for ſome time. But nevertheleſs, as the ſame *Severity* ſoon after return'd again, he tells us all along, That the Nations diſlike of it was *Univerſal*, and the repeated *Acclamations*, and *Univerſal Tranſports* of Joy at the proclaiming of *Queen Elizabeth* proceeded from the people's hopes of better Days under Her Scepter than her *Siſter's*. By which it appeared how weary the Nation was of the *Cruel* and weak *Adminiſtration* of Affairs under the former Reign. And the Joy in this Change (he ſays) was ſo Great and *Univerſal*, that but a *Bad Look* was thought *Criminal*.

So that to ballance Caſes, if the *Severity* of *Burning* of two hundred and ſixty *Proteſtants* in *Queen Mary's* Five Years Reign under the *Legal Sentence* of the then *Law of the Land*, and in that Reſpect by the Hand of *Juſtice*, begat ſuch a *Hatred* of Popery, and made ſo many *Converts* to the *Reformation*, that poſſibly 'twas one of the *Greateſt Liſes* to the *Downfall* of the *Romiſh* Religion in *England*; inſomuch that 'tis the Opinion of all wiſe Men, that a *Bonner* and a *Gardiner* did more towards the *Propagation* of the *proteſtant* Religion than a *Cranmer* and a *Ridley*. How much infinitely more therefore muſt the Exercife of ſuch *popiſh* Cruelties from the Hand of the moſt *Arbitrary* *Tyranny* under the viſible *Monſtrous* Face of the moſt notorious *Illegality*, and the blackeſt *Injuſtice*, increaſe our *Irreconcilable* *Detestation* of *Rome*, and by making more *Apoſtates* than

Profelytes to their Cause, heap up but fuel for the *Popish*, not *Protestant* Confusion: and so at best, this *Arbitrary Bloody Tyranny* can have no higher prospect than of committing Murders for meer *Murders* sake.

But to silence all Dangers of such *stupendious* papal *Excursions*. This barbarous Model of Gospel Propagation is at this present *Age* of the *World* wholly unpractised in all the *Popish Nations* in *Europe*, and excepting the *Spanish Inquisition* (and that too, seldom rigorous against any but the *Open Seducers* of the People from their Religion, to prevent the *Disturbance* of the settled Peace of the Kingdom under so *general* and *unanimous* a Conformity of the Roman Religion in *Spain*) There is now no *Popish Government* whatever, that proceeds against *Heresy* with *Fire* and *Fagot*, or any other *Sanguinary Punishment*; whilst on the contrary, the *Reformers* are more or less *Indulged* or *Tolerated* through almost all the *Popish Kingdoms* in the *World*; though 'tis true, that *Indulgence* or *Toleration* in the publick Exercise of their Religion is sometimes more *enlarged*, and other times more *curtild*, according to the more or less generous *Temper* of the *Respective Kings* that grant them; which though magnified at a prodigious rate by the present *Dreaders* of *Pope-ry*, such as the *Tender-hearted Condoles* of the true *Protestant Dissenter* Count *Tekely*, &c. is no more than what is dayly done even by *Protestant Princes* in the same Nature; whilst the *Immunities* and *Priviledges* of all *Dissenting Perswasions* against the *Establish'd Religion* of the Land, as being but the *Donation* of the *Governments Discretion* and *Courtesy*, are *increased* or *diminished*, as the *Favour* of the *Sovereign* shall extend, or the *Policy* of the *Nation* shall require.

However, as all *Sanguinary Persecutions* of *Heresy* are now so universally left off, and that too, considering the *Popes Influence* over the *Royal Sons* of his own Church, *undoubtedly* with his own *Privity* and *Consent*: 'tis certain, that both He and his *Crown'd Heads* are by Experience convinced of the *fatallity* of such *Rigorous Ecclesiastick Extremities*, as wholly *ineffectual* to the *Great Work Designed*, the *Intended Propagation* of Religion. And consequently, the *Pope* must be *strangely* out of his *Right Senses*, to put a *Popish Successour*, and that in *England*, of all the *Countries* of the *Universe*, upon a *Projection* so long out of *Fashion* in all the *World* beside; nay, and to a more *Monstrous* height of *Extravagance* (as being positively against any *Law* or *Right* whatever) than was ever practised in the *World* before.

Nevertheless, laying *Policy*, *Prudence*, nay, *Common Reason* aside; for once, we'll dispense with all manner of *Incoherencies* and *Absurdities* whatever, and put the Supposition, That the *Pope* should be *king* with that strange *Tarantula*, as to begin this *frantick Dance*, and a *Popish Successour*, that *Madman*, to follow him. The next Question that arises will be, How he shall set this *Arbitrary Machine* going? And which way he shall find *Hands*, *Tools*, and *Materials* to build this *Terrible COLOSSUS*, called *Arbitrary Power*. 'Tis true indeed, the *Character* tells us the way of doing it, as follows: *Let us but rightly consider how far the Foundations of Popery (Viz. Arbitrary Power) may be layed in England. First then, if a Papist Reign, we very well understand that the Judges, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and all the Judiciary Officers are of the King's Creation. And as such, how far may the Influence of Preferment on Baser Constitutions called out for his purpose, draw even to deprave the very Throne of Justice her self, and make our Judges use even our Protestant Laws themselves to open the First Gate to Slavery. Alas! the Laws in corrupted Judges Hands, have been too often used as barbarously as the Guests of Procrustes, who had a Bed for all Travellers, but then he either cut them shorter, or stretch them longer to fit them to it. And after all this, the Character proceeds, and tells you, that to crown the Work, and make the Pope Absolute, this Popish Successour wants a STANDING-ARMY, and he shall have it, &c.*

This *True Blew Protestant Scheme* of *Introduction* for *Arbitrary Power*, by the way of *distorting* of our very *Protestant Laws* to bring it in, the *History* of the *Popish Plot* only excepted, is one of the most *Comical Whims* that was ever invented. I confess indeed some intricate *Cases* in *Meum* and *Tuum* may occur, where the most *Impartial Judges* may be divided in their *Opinions*, even in *Matter of Law*, and the *Diversity* of various, and almost *obsolete Records* and *Statutes* in several lesser *Law-Matters* may some times admit of *Disputes* & *diverse Interpretations*, and a corrupt Judge under such a *Latitude*, may lean or turn as *Inclination* shall guide. But that part of our *English Law* that concerns our *Religion* and *Liberties*, the long and labour'd Work of so many *Successive Parliaments*; nay, and after the very *Lopping* of the *Prerogative* to secure the Subject by the *Abolition* of *Oaths ex Officio*, *Star-Chamber Courts*, *Court of Wards*, and by the *Benefit* of *Habeas Corpus Acts*, &c. the continued *Care* and *Industry* of our *Law-makers* for a hundred years together, stands so strongly fortified against all *Romish* or *Arbitrary Invasions*, that there's not the least *Crumm* in the *Law* left open for the *Admission* of the *One* or the *Other*. However, this part of the *Character* was very well timed for the *Season* 'twas writ in. For when the very *Protestant Clergy* and *Bishops* of the Land, the whole *Court*, nay and the *KING* himself not excepted, were all *helter skelter*, just upon being turn'd into downright *Papists* in *Maskerade*, 'twas not at all unreasonable to improve upon the *Fiction*, and bring in the *Protestant Laws* too in the *Crowd* for *Popish Maskeraders* among their *Fellows*.

However, notwithstanding this *Pretended Dangerous Inlet* to *Arbitrary Power*, the *Character*, by a certain *Fault* which I have read in a *Treatise*, called *Richard and Baxter*, (a *Figure of Speech much used* by that *Eloquent Divine*, and truly much borrow'd in the *Character*, being little else throughout) makes bold in another place point Blank to contradict this *Passage*, and positively affirms, *That to set up Popery or Arbitrary Power by Law, under the Laws we have already against them, is wholly impossible, and that our Laws will be but the Hedge to keep in the Cuckold.* For *Papists*

and

and Slaves we must and shall be made, as the inseparable Concomitants of a Popish Successor. And to prove all this Breaking of all Laws whatever, it says in *hac verba*;

How can the Force of Laws, made by a Protestant Predecessor, and a Protestant Parliament, in any sort bind a Popish Successor? When the very first Advance of the Pope's Supremacy [a very nimble leap] introduces that higher Power, those Canonical Ecclesiastick Laws, which no Secular, or any other Temporal Court can or may Controul; Laws that shall declare, not only the Statutes and Acts of Parliament made against the Dignity of Mother Church, void and Null, but the very Law-makers themselves, as Hereticks, wholly incapable of ever having any Right of making any such Laws. No doubt then, but that Fire that burns those Heretick Law-makers, shall give their Laws the same Martyrdom.

Here indeed the Affairs are altered, and truly, the Matter much mended. This I confess, says the Character, and this, at least three parts of the Fools of English Mankind believe for Oracles. And though all our Records, Histories, Chronicles, and the whole Series of all Ages since the Conquest to this day, do notoriously prove the Contrary; yet this Popular Maxime, That the Romanists by their Ecclesiastick Laws, pretend to annul and make void all Secular Laws against their Church, and to incapacitate the very Prerogative and Authority of that Majesty, and those Law-makers that made them, though one of the most Impudent Falshoods in nature, is nevertheless one of the most received Vulgar Traditions that ever startled Ideots.

For Example, to begin with their very *Heretick Comburendi*: The very *Ax and Fasces* of Rome, was it not an Act of the Secular Power? In the very highest Reign of Popery, did, or could the Pope punish an *Heretick Apostate* by Imprisonment, Fire or Faggot, any further than by Parliamentary Permission, and excepting that the Clergy were made Judges of Heresy, and that too, by concession of the Secular Authority. Was not the Execution of that Law kept in Temporal Hands?

Nay, though 'tis true, the Papal Power made many Usurp'd Encroachments here, through the Bigamy of the Government; yet, upon too *black* Pressures from Rome, did not several of our Kings many hundred years before the Reformation, resume their own Original Right; and expressly in the Statute against PROVISORS under Penalty of Forfeiture of Goods, and Imprisonment for Life, forbid the admitting of the Pope's *Laganine* Power in England, or making Appeals to Rome, or taking Inductions to Episcopal Sees from the Pope?

And for Queen Mary her self, was there one Syllable of the Laws Enacted by her Father Henry, or her Brother Edward in favour of the Reformation, that she ever pretended to Over-rule by any Ecclesiastick Law or Pretence whatever? Nay, and did not the Pope's Supremacy itself, and that not till many a hard tug, and two years after she came to the Crown, come in by Act of Parliament, under several Limitations of his Power; with the Confirmation of the antient Statute against Provisors, &c. and several other Boundaries; as much as to say, *Move thus far, and no further.*

But alas! what's all this to the Author of a Popish Character? Popery and Arbitrary Power in spite of Fate, shall and must be set up. And therefore what Laws shall, or shall not get uppermost, is ene as Mr. Scribler pleases. For truly Malice put pen to paper, and Truth and Reason were never minded: and indeed, there was no need of either of them; for as that Pamphlet had the honour in the Title-Page, of being humbly offered to the Consideration of the then HOUSES of Parliament, both Truth and Reason were immaterial to its Recommendation. For where an Ores his Paratitbe past for Gospel, the Devil's in't, if a Popish Character could miscarry.

However, to confute that senseless Fear, that a Popish Successor will subvert the whole Foundations of the Government, and erect his own Arbitrary Edit, for the Supreme Standard of JUSTICE, and that he shall find those Popish Judges, Sheriffs, or any other Officers or Ministers, that under the Protection of a Standing Army, shall make our Lives and Liberties wholly dependant upon the Capricchio and Pleasure of the Prince, and pursuant thereto, shall furnish him with Fajls, Gibbers, and Smithfield Piles, or any other Arbitrary, though less Sanguinary Persecution to convert us to Popery.

First, let us examine the Courage of all these Arbitrary Judges, Officers, and State-Ministers that embarque in this Arbitrary Undertaking. They must be all those hardy popish Tools, whether corrupted by Zeal or Interest, that they must not value all their own Lives, for notwithstanding whatever Protection or Impunity they may receive during the Life of their Royal Popish Driver; no sooner shall the next Protestant Heir succeed him, but every Mothers Son of them shall be answerable with their Petts for the least drop of Protestant BLOOD they have shed, or Protestant Liberty they have invaded. The Protestant Laws of the Land will not be so tamely overthrown, without a certain Vengeance attending it; insomuch that those bold Babel Builders, these Arbitrary Popery Raisers must either be so generous to their King as the Indian Wives to their Husbands, and make one glorious Funeral Pile upon his Grave; or else, resolve to live to offer up their Throats to the very Sword of Justice in the Hand of a Lawful Authority, which themselves before have so unlawfully abused in their own.

And that the Liberty of the Subject is so tender in the Eye of the English Government, the very misusing and torturing of Hereticks in Prison, though under that Attainder, liable to the most ignominious of Deaths; and though done in a Popish predecessors Reign, was sufficient to have taken the great Statesman *Banner's* Head off, but only that Queen Elizabeth's Petter interposed, as unwilling to stain the beginning of her Reign with Blood. [Reform. Abridg. B. 4. pag. 337.] And if his Illegal Compliance with his Prince, was so Capital an Offence, what must the more violent Irruptions of Arbitrary Rapines against the unalienable Liberty of the Protestant Subject, now pull down upon the bold Invaders Heads.

'Tis no difficult matter to possess the *overcredulous* World, the *easy* swallowing Multitude, with what wondrous Atchievements the *Zealors* of Popery shall undertake, and what indefatigable *Labour*s and *Hazards* they will go through for the Re-building of their *Faln* Temples, when animated and influenced by a Popish Sovereign.

I acknowledge ('tis true) there is no Courage more *daring* than that which Zeal inspires; and no Zeal possibly more *violent* than that of the Papists, and undoubtedly for *Rome's* Restoration, there would be many venturous and bold Champions amongst them in so *Meritorious* a Cause.

But alas! every *Herpe* is not a *Samson*. There are, no doubt, those of them that would spare neither *pains* nor *study* to propagate their own Religion, though never so indirectly; those possibly that would have it in their Power (if they could come handsomely by it) to use their Heretick *Adversaries* with as little *Mercy* as HE did his *Philistian* Enemies; but alas, not with his *Hardi-ness* too, as like *Him*, to pull down that Roof upon their Heads to their own inevitable Destruction only to have the pleasure of crushing some of *Us* with them.

We read, I confess, that *pro Aris & Focis* men will venture far. Yes truly, for their Religion and *Estates* together they will do so. But in the Popish Case, where the *Founding* of the *One* will be the *Destruction* of the *Other*; where the *Setting up* of their Religion, will be the *Forfeiting* not only their *Estates*, but *Heads* too; 'tis more than a hundred to one, betwixt these two so directly *opposite* Interests, but that the keeping of their *Skin* and *Bones* warm on the *one* side, may make their Zeal a little the cooler on the other. For let me tell you, where the *Erecting* of the Altar will at long run make the *Builders* the *Sacrifice*, in all humane probability that Popish Temple will go but slowly up, whose Stones are to be dug out of so fatal a *Quarry*.

'Tis very remarkable in *Queen Mary's* Reign, when by the Majority of her Parliament, the Protestant Religion then but in its *Minority* was abolish'd, and the Romish Government and Papal *Supremacy* Re-establish'd; and indeed the *Grandure* of *Rome* even to *Heretici comburendi* maintain'd. Yet that *Parliament* that had it absolutely in their power to gratifie the Pope's utmost Wishes, refused the *returning* his *Church-Lands* again.

Nay, the *Parliament* were so averse to the thought of such a *Restitution*, that they had never been wrought up to the restoring of the very *Supremacy* it self, and of making of all those favourable Acts towards the re-installing of *Popery* again, but by much pains used (as *Burnet* in his *Abridgement*, pag. 268 says) by the policy of *Bishop Gardiner*, to ensure the Kingdom from the Fear of coming under such *Tyranny* from *Rome* as their *Ancestors* had groan'd under, and likewise from the Loss of the *Abbey-Lands*. Inasmuch that *Gardiner* promised them for Removal of all such *Jealousie*, that all the old Laws against *Provisions* should continue in Force, and to shew them that *Legates* should exercise no dangerous Authority in *England*, he made *Pool* take out a License under the *Great Seal* for his *Legatine* Power; and for the other, *Niz.* the *Abbey-Lands*, he promised both an Act of *Parliament* and *Convocation* confirming them, and undertook that the Pope himself should ratifie the *Alienation* of the *Church-Lands*; which, *History* tells us, was accordingly done.

Nevertheless, as this Papal Dispensation came very unwillingly from *Rome*, being only a *Forced Compliance* and *Temporizing* with the English *Obstinacy* in that point. The Queen her self restored all the *Church-Lands* in her Possession, and proceeded so far as to the Re-building of several Religious Houses, declaring to her *Treasurer* and some of her other *Officers*, that she thought her self bound in Conscience to restore all the *Church-Lands*, as being unlawfully acquired, and not to be held without a *Sin*: (as *Baker* in his *Chronicle* tells us) Nay, the Pope himself set out a *Bull*, excommunicating all that kept any Lands belonging to *Abbeys* or *Churches*; which gave such an Alarm to the Nation, that *Gardiner* was forced to pacifie them, by telling them, that *Bull* was intended only to the people of *Germany*, and not *England*. However, the Pope continued his high Resentments against the *Unutility* of *England*, that he could not forbear telling the Queen's *Ambassadors*. (*Abridg.* pag. 221.) That it was beyond his power to confirm *Sacrilege*, and all were obliged, under the pain of *Damnation* to restore to the last Farthing every thing that belong'd to the *Church*; he said likewise, that he would send over a *Collectour* to gather the *Peter-pence*; for they could not expect that *St. Peter* would open Heaven to them, so long as they denied him his Rights upon Earth.

Yet all this made so little Impression on the *Commons* of *England*, that whatever Conscience might dictate, their Priests insinuate, their *Popish Successour* Solicite, or their Pope himself endeavour, so powerful was *Interest* above *Conscience*, and all other *Motives* whatever, that several of the *Commons* in *Parliament* lay'd their hands on their Swords, and declared that they would not part with their *Estates*, but defend them. And every Motion that way, was always carry'd in the *Negative*. (*Abridg. of the Reform.* B. 3. pag. 309.)

Now, pray, for once, let us compare Cases. If the *Papists* in her Reign, with the highest *Papal Dominion* and *Soueraignty* in their own Hands, under an Establish'd *Roman Church*, against both their Priests and their Prince; nay, a Prince too, with her *Hereticks* under her Feet, and her Religion in the very *Saddle*, could refuse both their Pope, and their *popish Successour* so *Just* and so *Sacred* a Right, and so important to his Church's *Interest*, and that too, when with all Safety round them, they might have confirm'd their Oblation even by the strongest Bonds of *Law*; so on the other side, how shall it be suppos'd that the more *prodigal* *Papists* in our Age, in the quite contrary extreme, shall gratifie the unjust Demands of a more *Impotent* *popish Successour*, under the lowest *Ebb* of *Popery* against all *Law* or *Prudence* of *Law* whatever, by launching out into the most notorious

Violation

Violation of all the highest functions of *Right and Justice*, and the most openfaced Tyranny and most impudent Barbarity in the world, and all (forsooth) for the *Establishing of Popery*; and all, God wot, too little for the Work; and this too, to the running themselves into unavoidable *Jarls and Batters*; and not only to the ruining of their *Estates*, but to the cutting off of the *Lives of Themselves*, and even the very *RACE of Papists* under the next immediate *Crown'd-Head* that succeeds.

Besides, as boldly as the *Roman Zealots* stand up for the *Interest and Dignity of Mother Church*, and the *Grandure and Dominion of their Peter's Successour*, not only the *Papists*, but the very *Priests* themselves are not so *overcourageous* in this Cause as the *World* suspects them. For Instance, in *Henry the Eighth's* Reign, the whole *Clergy of England*, by a *State-surprize* upon them, were found guilty of a *Premunire*, by submitting to *Cardinal Woolsey's* *Legantine-power*, as derived only from the *Pope's Authority*, and thereby expressly against the *Statute of PROVISORES*, an old dormant *Law*, made several *King's* Reigns before, though rarely, or never put in Force, by reason of the *Remissness* of the Government, and the *Supineness* of the Nation and *Kings Submission to Rome*, and therefore unwarily transgressed by the *Clergy now*. By virtue however of which they had forfeited their *Goods and Chattels to the King*, and their persons to be imprisoned. Upon the *King's Menace* of executing which *Law* (*Reformat. Book the 2d. pag. 112.*) the Convocation of *Canterbury*, in tenderness to their *Skins and Estates*, brought a Petition to his Majesty, acknowledging him in the Title, *Protector, and Supream Head of the Church and Clergy of England*. Which was agreed to by nine *Bishops*, 82 *Abbots*, and the majority of the Convocation in the Province of *Canterbury*, praying him to accept of 100000 *l.* in lieu of the Punishments incurred. And the Province of *York* soon afterwards consented to the same *Submission*, with the Offer of 13840 *l.* for obtaining the same pardon.

Inasmuch that we find the very *popish Clergy* themselves so servilely compounding for their *Dammon*, and their *Carcasses* (not so much in the Voluntary Tribute of their Purses) as with the *Renunciation of the Pope's Ecclesiastical Supremacy*, the very *brightest Jewel* in the *Tripple Diadem*, and consequently by this sordid Compliance, even the *Priesthood* it self by their own *Leading Act*, gave the fatal *Original precedent* to the succeeding *Act of Parliament* to confirm that *Supremacy* in the *Crown*, and so struck the first main *Blow* towards the *Shaking off the Romish Prerogative* in *England*, and thereupon *Conspired* to the greatest part of the ensuing *Fatalities* to their Religion it self.

And therefore, if the *Ecclesiastical Sons of Rome* could ward themselves from the *Stroke of Law* due to that *leis Capital Transgression THEN*, by denying their very *Pope*: Why must the *Sons of Rome* be so prodigiously Fool-hardy *NOW*, as to run themselves into a more *Dangerous* and more *Fatal Noose of Law* for his *Vindication*.

'Tis very easie preaching to *Fools and Madmen* (as the *popish Character* has very *Rhetorically* done) what miraculous *Fire and Faggot Feats*, or other *Arbitrary Extravagancies* the wonderful *Papists* under a *popish Successour* shall do. But as great a *Deity* as the *Romanists* make of their *Keeper of the Keys of Heaven*, as the *Devil* (*speaking of Job*) makes answer to *God Almighty*, put forth thine hand, and touch him in all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy Face. So let his *Holiness* put these *Zealors* upon that *Hard Task*, where their *Necks* are sure to stretch in the *Servitude*, and *Obedience* will be so little a part of the *Sacrifice* they'll make his *Divinityship* in such a Command, that all his *Bell, Book, and Candle* will be too little to conjure up half hands enough for so *ungrateful* and so *curst* an Employment. Whatever pleasure they may take in bringing *Us* to *Stakes and Gibbets*, they are not overfond of *Martyrdom* themselves. And though *Great* is their *DIANA of Ephesus*, whilst *Profit and Safety* go along with her, and upon *Reasonable Terms*, much might be done to exalt her; yet ther's that *Universal Charm* in that thing call'd *OUR ALL*, and that strange *superfeding Quality* in those potent *Operators, Self, and Self-preservation*, that it over-rules the highest *Excursions* even of the most daring *Zeal*, and the very biggest *Devils* of *Outrage and Tyranny* are laid by no other *Spell*.

But perhaps it may be objected, That to encourage the bold *Labourers* in this *Harvest*, this *popish King*, to prevent the Ruine both of his *Cause* and his *Parry*, will take Care, in case of a *protestant Heir*, to divert the *Succession*, and continue the *Crown* upon some other *popish Head*; and so by a longer *Usurpation* of this *Arbitrary Supremacy*, and a more lasting *Persecution* of the *Protestants*, provide as much as in him lyes, that the *propagation of the Romish Faith* may be compleated in succeeding *Ages*, upon so good a *Foundation* lay'd in his *Own*.

This foolish *Supposition* is so lewdly *ridiculous*, that ther's scarce a shadow for such a *Fear*: For (alas) there will be so little *Hopes of a popish Usurper's* mounting the *Throne*, after so notorious a *Tyranny* under a *Lawful popish King* before him, as nothing can scarcely be more impossible. 'Tis possible indeed, the *Duty of our Christianity*, and the *Bond of Passive Obedience*, as having the *Lawful Power* of no other *Weapons* but our *Prayers and Tears* against the *Tyranny* of our *Lawful Prince*, may rye up our hands, and keep us in the *Bounds of Peace and Resignation* during his *Reign*. But the setting up of a *popish Usurper* after him, in wrong to the *Imperial protestant Right Heir*, will undoubtedly engage all the *Protestant Hands and Hearts* against so impudent an *Invader*; (and if Occasion require, his *Protestant Royal Neighbours* in such a Cause) whilst the asking

up Arms in such a Quarrel, which had been *Rebellion* against his Predecessour before, would be the work of their highest Duty and Allegiance now. And as the Remembrance of their past *Troth* to all true English Spi. its, would certainly double Edge their very Swords; so, in so just a Cause, 'twould infallibly spur them to so perfect, and so unanimous a Revenge, as to cut off their popish Enemies, even to the last Man. Now what popish Usurper shall venture to pass such an Ordeal to a Throne? Or what hopes a popish King can have of such a Successour, or of accomplishing his own popish Designs on such a Basis, let common Reason judge.

And therefore the Pope must have a very little *Paternal Care* of his Royal Son of Rome, and indeed of all his *Catholick* Sons in England, as to imbarck them in a Cause so apparently *Destructive*, whilst by misleading them into such sanguinary, illegal Cruelties against the Protestants, and all for an impossible Conversion of a Nation, he runs his own darling people, Root and Branch into an inevitable Fate under the next Protestant Successor, exposed not only to the highest popular Swords and Fury, but even to Cords and Axes, and the severest Stroke, and Vengeance of Law itself. But possibly their Fate shall not wait so long as the next King's Coronation, but overtake them in the first Onset of their popish Barbarity. For let us but look back to the Gun-powder Treason, a Plot where Faux's Powder-Barrels were neither like Otes his Tenxbury Mustard-Balls, nor his Black Bills, Invisibile. A Plot too, where the Conspirators dyed not Tongue-tied, but confessed their Guilt, without that wonder-working Dispensation of asserting a Counterfeit Innocence, to the stretch of their Salvation, and Renunciation of their God, on the very Brink of Eternity. Let us look back, I say, to the Discovery of that Plot: and History informs us, that 'twas as much as the King, Court and Government could possibly do to restrain the people's Rage from Butchering all the Papists in England, the Guilty and Innocent together in the Revenge of so barbarous a Machination, though unaffected, tho by Providence detected and frustrated. And if the Genius of England was so highly exasperated, and so furiously transported in Zeal for their Prince's and their Representative's Danger, though past and escaped. What Security shall the Pope, or his popish Successour promise themselves, that the people's Zeal for their own Dangers Approaching, will not be as much transported too. And that the Eruption of Smithfield Fires, with the dragging of their Fathers, their Wives, their Children, or their Kindred (and possibly their own Towns next) to a popish Stake, will not equally, if not more violently inflame them into as great, or greater Ontrages than the Gun-powder Plot could do.

But whether this certain Ruine should pursue these Arbitrary popish Instruments either sooner or later, and that it were really possible these, or any other Illegal popish Measures might give us some Trouble and Disturbance during this popish Monarch's Reign. How wretched a piece of Work must the Wisdom of the Pope and the whole Conclave undertake, to make Popery and Arbitrary Power under a popish Successour, those Feeble Serpents that shall but just bite our Heels to provoke our succeeding Vengeance to crush their Heads.

In the second year of Queen Mary, after the Repeal of King Edward's Laws, but before the Restoration of the Pope's Supremacy, we are told in the History of the Reformation: (Abridg. B. 3. pag. 253.) of a project proposed by the Spanish Ambassador to the Queen, of assuming the power of a Conqueror, and ruling at pleasure; by which she might restore both the Religion and the Abbey-Lands, and be under no Restraint. This she communicated to her Chancellor Gardiner, and charged him to give her his Opinion of it sincerely, as he would answer to God for it at the last day. He read it carefully, and told her it was a most pernicious Contrivance, and begged her not to listen to such Platforms which might be brought her by base Sycophants. Upon that she burnt the Paper, and charged the Ambassador to bring her no more such projects. This gave Gardiner great Apprehensions of the Mischiefs that Spanish Councils might bring upon the Nation: and so he practised the Act so made; by which the Queen was bound by the Law, as much as her Ancestors were.

Now if that Bloody popish Zealot Gardiner was so violently averse to the Thought of bringing Arbitrary power into England, for what Service soever to the Romish Cause, as in his Opinion so most pernicious; when at the same time the Majority, or Half of the Nation at least were of that persuasion. And if popish Standing Armies could have done the Feat, they were ten times easier to be rais'd for any Arbitrary popish purpose then; especially too, when the Queen lay in the Bosome of that potent Spanish Husband (witness his Invincible Armada soon after against Queen Elizabeth) that could have lent her a very considerable helping Hand from Foreign Assistance to push on the project, had her English Strength been Insufficient. Now I say, if nevertheless the Design was deem'd so pernicious then, what popish State Councillours at this time of day will run their own and their Prince's Fingers so far in the Fire, as to advise him to any such Arbitrary Projection now, under so low a Title of Popery, that scarce the 200th. part of the Nation are of that Religion, and therefore infinitely more pernicious than in Queen Mary's Case, and consequently, which nothing but the most abandon'd Lunacy can ever pretend to advise, or attempt.

'Tis true indeed, the popish Character lays down a most Expeditious Method of raising this dreadful Standing Army, that are to accomplish the mighty Feat of Popery and Slavery under a Romish Successour; which for the Reader's Diversion take as follows.

To make the Pope Absolute, there wants a Standing-Army; and he shall have it. For who shall bind him? Nay, all his Commanders shall be qualify'd even by our present Protestants, I test for the Employment. He shall have enough Men of the Blade out of one half of the Gaming-Houses in Town, to Officer twice as many Forces as he shall want. 'Tis true, they shall be Men of no Estates nor Principles

ples. But they shall fight as well as those that have Both. For people are ever as Valiant that have their Fortunes to raise, as those that have them to defend: Nay, of the two they shall be the more Faithful. For they have no Property to be concern'd for, and will more zealously serve him, by Reason their whole Interest and Estates lye in Him. And that this Army may be more quietly rayfed, how many honourable Pretences may be found? Perhaps the greatest and most important Preservation of his Kingdom shall call for it: and then upon second Thoughts, instead of defeating some Foreign Enemy, they are opportunely ready to cut our Throats at home, &c.

This Projection I confess is the only passage through the whole Character, that endeavours to make out the possibility of any part of the numerous popish Mischiefs denounced through the whole Pamphlet: For all along it absolutely supposes the power of a popish Successour's doing whatever he pleases; and after so fallacious a *Petitio principii*, it leaps over all Mountains in the way, and only labours to prove the Depravity of a popish Successour's Tyrannical Inclinations, and give him the Will of putting that power into Execution.

But to examine the Depth of this Projection, granting such a Set of Atheistick Officers could be found; what then must their Army be? Here's a Foreign Invasion, or some other Honourable Cause proposed; and an Army rayfed for that seeming Intent and Purpose: an Army of papists they cannot be, for there is not 40000 Men, Women, and Children of that persuasion in the whole Kingdom; and consequently, far short of 10000 Fighting Men amongst them all; and possibly, not one half of them neither, such Foolhardy Desperadoes, as to hazard their Lives so madly and so extravagantly in so unpromising a Cause, so unaccomplishable a Design as Subjecting of England by the Hands of the papists. So that an Army of Papists can be no part of a popish Successour's Thoughts.

And that the number of the papists in England is really no Greater. The King's Indulgence formerly to those of that Religion, in gratitude for their Loyal Endeavours at Worcester; and indeed through all his Fathers Distresses, has been so far from putting them to the Shifts of Disguises or Concealment of their Perswasions, that before the late wakening of the Laws against them, the papists were every where as visible, and generally as distinguishable from the rest of Mankind as one Sex is from another; insomuch that (unless their Numbers have increased by Converts made since the popish Discovery, and the Execution of the Statutes against them) there's scarce one papist in England, that all his Neighbours round him cannot particularly point at. And how thin soon those Papists are, is notoriously manifest, when in many and many a ten Parishes together in England there is not three Papists, and the whole number computed through the Nation, scarce the 200th. Man of that Perswasion. Notwithstanding there have been many Fanatical Pretensions of wonderful popish Dispensations; by vertue of which, there are at least thirty or forty thousand Church-papists as some old Oliverian Rebels shall tell you, tolerated by the Pope to an Absolute Protestant Uniformity, and ready upon occasion, to show themselves in their proper Colours. The Villany of which Damnable Falshood is sufficiently apparent, from the forementioned Indulgence. For why such a Dispensation? Why a playing the basest of Hypocrites, and Bantring with Religion, Sacraments, nay, GOD himself; (as such a Dispensation is no less) when under so universal an Impunity, there was not the least Occasion for it? There's a natural Pride in all Religions to avow their own Principles; and no Man, like St. Peter, denies his Master, unless, like him too, under some Apprehension of Danger in owning him. And therefore these papal Dispensations must be the Second Part of Ores his Commissions, and nothing but the Restless Malice of Schisme, and the Diabolical Spirit of Rebellion can raise so false an Alarm of popery, and hugbear the Ignorant Rabble by so vile and so cursed an Imposition.

But to return to our Standing Army. An Army of Papists is not to be had; and an Army of Atheists is as unfeizable as the other. For whatever dissolute Debauchees might possibly be culled out (as the Character tells you) of no Religion nor Principles, for a few particular Officers; the whole Gross of an Army of the same Stamp is not in *verum Naturâ*: For if a popish Successour will have an Army of English-men, he must take them as he finds them, the loose and poorer sort of Rabble, the Bore and Peasant, the Refuse of the Shop and the Plough, which are ever the Composition of Armies in a Kingdom not so extraordinary peopled as England, and these must be the Hands that this popish Successour must raise for his Standing Armies. And if so, how far the Genius of the Commonalty of England lyes towards such a popish Undertaking, and this Popish Army shall push on to these All-popish Designs, is worthy our Consideration.

Here's an Army expressly rais'd for a Foreign Invasion, or the like; and on the quite contrary, intended to cut our own Throats at home; rays'd for the Kingdom's preservation, & used for its down-right Destruction; and all this, forsooth, because their Arbitrary popishly Affected Officers shall pull off the Vizor, and wheel about, and at the word of Command, the whole Army after them. But the Query is, Whether they'll obey that Command; and be so tamely indifferent pro or con in their Obedience, as to act the most opposite thing to what they were rayfed for, and maintain perhaps the same Cause that they abhor.

I confess, in the Quarrels of Princes and States, as to Foreign Engagements, the vindicating of a National Honour, or the enlarging of Dominion, &c. Armies are generally of their Leaders Inclinations, and it boots little possibly to an English Army, whether engaged against a Dutch or a French Enemy. But in Domestic and Intestine Jarrs, the Favour of the Cause ever animates the Arm that fights it. In all the popish Rebellions, or Massacres, whether in Ireland, Piedmont, or Paris, whether for or against the Prince, or in all the several Hugonot Rebellions in France.

other Kingdoms of Europe; when Religion was the Quarrel, 'twas not the Command of the Leader but the Principle of the Party adhering to him, that was ever the *First Mover* on both sides. And a popish Cause in England can never move, but upon the same *Axle*. And nothing is more idle, than to fancy such an Extravagance in any People or Religion in the World, as to swallow such *Implicit Obedience* to Princes, as to do any Thing, or all Things because Commanded.

'Tis not the first time that through prejudice to the Person or the Cause, disgusted Souldiers have shot through their *Captains* instead of their *Enemies Heads*, and the Fate of *Kuniski* amongst the *Cossacks*, is no Original of the Kind; nor is it any such *Rarity* in History, to find whole Armies turn *Deserters*, and not only set up new *Leaders*, but new *Sovereigns* too. And truly upon engaging an *English Army* under so *Bloody* a popish *Standard*, what Assurance can this popish Successour propose to himself, not so much of going through with so crabbed a piece of Work, but even of his own meer *Safety* under the Protection of such *Hands* and *Swords* to uphold him? What Security shall he, or indeed can he in common reason expect from the *Stubborn, obstinate English Hands*, a People too apt to fly in the very Face of Princes upon a less Provocation than so ungrateful a piece of Service: and that upon raising an Army for any such kind of purpose, he has not put the Sword into their very hands that may guide it to his own *Throat*, whilst possibly they shall be opportunely raised for some more *Warling-potterant* Favourite to step into the Head of them, and dismount, not only their *popish Officers*, but *popery* too, and the very Royal *popish Nimrod* himself; nay, and perhaps use him with as little Remorse as the *Turkish Janizaries* have done several of their *less hated Grand Seignours* under a much more *Trivial Disguist*.

But to give an Example out of our *English Chronicles*, of the Obedience and Loyalty of *English Armies* to a King they hate; I shall only refer the Reader to the Fate of King *Richard the Third* at *Bosworth Field*. *Baker* tells us, that *Richard's Army* was double the Strength and Number of his *Adversarys*, the Earl of *Richmond's*. Yet see the Infidelity of an *English Army* to a Prince under the popular *Dissatisfaction* and *Prejudice*. A great part of his Army raised for his preservation, was actually engaged in his *Destruction*. For the Lord *Stanly* by a Revolt with 2000 Horse, Sir *William Stanley* with a party of 3000 more; and with these Sir *Walter Hungerford*, Sir *John Savage*, Sir *Brian Stanford*, Sir *Simon Digby*, all Commanders, who withdrew likewise with their *Respective Inferiour Souldiers*, amounting between them, to the Majority of *Richard's* whole Army, turned all to the Earl of *Richmond*, and carryed the whole Fortune of the day to the *Victorious Enemies Side*, to the Loss both of *Richard's Crown* and *Life* together. Nay, he goes further, and expressly tells us, that in this Battle *Henry, Earl of Northumberland*, a Commander of *Richard's* Party, never *shook Stroke*; as likewise many other, who follow'd him more out of Fear than Love: which *Newters* upon the same Revolt as the Lord *Stanly*, might undoubtedly have withdrawn their party to *Richmond* too. So that upon that dangerous and fatal Rock, the people's Aversion, how easily are the *Crowns* and *Lives* of princes *Shipwrack'd*? and what little Trust can Monarchs repose in the Strength and Swords of Armies whose Hearts are not *Theirs*.

But alas! if *Richard the Third* found such Treachery from a *Revolting Army*; and an *Antipathy* so destructive to him; What Truth or Faith is a *popish Tyrant* like to find from Armies under a more universal and inveterate Detestation.

For wherein was King *Richard's* Crime so great? (I mean, as to the people) 'Tis true, he Mounted the Throne by the most Inhumane of Murders. And from that only Grievance proceeded the Defection of his Souldiers, that cost him his Life and Empire. But still, that was not half so great an Incentive to his *Revolting Subjects*, as the forementioned Barbarities of a *popish Tyrant* now. For though he was so deeply stain'd in *Royal Blood*, yet that was not so nearly felt by the people, as a *Romish Tyrant* cutting his *Subjects* Throats would be, by reason that *Englishmen* have ever a greater Tenderness of Themselves than their Princes. Besides, whatever Wrong he had done to the *Royal Family*, never had Prince more endeared himself (or endeavoured it, at least) than he to his people. For *Baker* gives this Account of him, That having gotten the Crown by pestilent Conrises, he sought to Establish it by *Wholesome Laws*: for in no King's Reign were ever better Laws made, for the Ease and Solace of the people, or more Immunities granted to the Subject. Nor was there any thing of Religious Difference in his Case (Religion, that the Character tells you, sets all Nations in a Flame) For *Richard* and his Souldiers were of *One Church*; and so no part of the people's Hatred (as in the Case of *popery* now) nor any part of the Coals was blown up from that Wind. Yet, if under no Danger to Religion and Liberties, no Approach nor Apprehension of Tyranny and Slavery, nevertheless his parricides alone outweighed all other Merits, and their Hatred of *Richard* only on that Score, could turn his Subjects Swords against his own Breast; how much more violent an Aversion will the Hatred of a *popish Tyrant*, both for his Religion and his Cause together produce, being enough to exasperate the *English Constitutions*, not only into Rebels, but even into *Sabages* too.

But for a farther Instance of *Revolting Armies*, the History of *Demetrius*, Emperour of *Russia*, is a memorable Example. This *Demetrius*, the only Heir of the Empire, was in his Infancy stoln away to be rescued from the Danger of his Life from the Cruelty of the Usurper *Bogitz Jedoyitz*, then in possession of the Empire, and another Body very like him, was exposed Dead to the View of the people. This *Demetrius* being brought up in *Poland* with the *Palatine Sanbountz*, after he had travelled into *Germany* and *Italy* for the space of twenty years, gave himself to be known for the

Son of *Boris*, and Heir of *Russia*, and by the Assistance of the *Palatine*, the *Jesuites*, and the Favour of the King himself, entered into *Muscovy*, well accompanied with *Germanes*, *Poles*, and *Cossacks*. Against whom *Boris* raised a puissant Army. Nevertheless the Infidelity of his People, who rose in Arms against him, together with several Losses sustained, deprived him both of *Courage* and *Life*, and thereupon he dyed, but left his Son to succeed him; who was receiv'd indeed by some of his Faction. But the City of *Muscovy*, together with all the Country, having joyn'd with *Demetrius*, threw *Boris* Son into Prison, and Establish'd *Demetrius* upon the *Throne*; whose Coronation, (as 'tis largely described in the *History of the Iron Age*) was attended with such loud *Transports* of the People, and such universal Acclamations of Joy, as could scarce be exceeded. Yet this very Prince had no sooner ascended the *Throne*, and was scarce yet warm in the Seat, but those very Subjects whose *Hands* and *Swords* had so cheerfully and vigorously asserted the Justice of his Cause and *Burthen*, and advanced him to the *Empire*; nevertheless, understanding that he had embraced the *Romish Faith*, and acknowledged the *Pope*, and that he had introduced the *Jesuites*, as they apprehended, to endeavour the Change of the Religion (which in *Russia*, is the *Greek Church*), fell so totally off from their *former Allegiance*, and entered into so sudden and so perfidious a Conspiracy against him, that upon a General Upbraid they fell upon the *Poles*, and others, as they were going to Court, insomuch that they overpowr'd all the *Foreign Assistance* he had brought with him, and approach'd so near to his Palace, till the Emperor left his Queen, and got away, and upon pursuit, leapt down from a Tower through a Window; at the Foot whereof (being found alive) he was forthwith dispatched, and the Cauchy of the barbarous Multitude continued upon his dead Body, which they tore in pieces: And so swift was the Change of popular Affections, and so violent the Fury stirr'd up by the mere Alarm of altering the Religion, that all this prodigious Revolution was wrought in a Month's Time after his Acquisition of the Crown.

And if the Imaginary Introduction of *Papery* (as this was hitherto no more) could raise so rapid a Torrent, and so sudden a Turn of Tide from the Revolving *Muscovites*; what miraculous Fidelity can a *Romanist* expect from *Englishmen*, under as great an Abhorrence of the Religion, and a more real Appearance of the aforementioned Tyrannous Effects of it.

But put the Case, the best and most plausible way, *Viz* That a popish Successour (as some people will fancy) though really impossible, could raise a whole Army of the same *Screaching Conscience* as the Character has rais'd him Officers, a Crew of all *Atheists*, and neither Principles nor Religion were any part of their Consideration, and consequently payable to any purpose whatever; as a Pack of such *Reprobates* as shall obey their Prince and his Officers in so unjustifiable a Command, and so unnatural a piece of Service as cutting the *Priest's* Throats, or upholding those Arbitrary Judges that shall do it, what *Finish* shall he dare lodge in an Army so Qualified? For what shall hinder them, upon any Opportunity or Overture of greater advantage, from turning as great *Regrets* against him as for him; and truly with as little Guilt, and as good Conscience on one side as 't'other. For an *Actual Obedience*, even to a Crown'd Head in the Execution of an Unlawful Act, especially so notorious as the *Massacring* of his Subjects, and Destruction of the Government, is as much against our Duty, both as *Christians* and *Subjects*, as downright to rebel against him. And if this Army can stretch so far as to such horrid popish Outrages, so much against the *English Grain*, 'tis very great Odds, but they'd much easier lean to their more *Natural Biass* on the other.

I need not insist much farther upon the manifest Inability of *Papery's* Advancement by Arms or Arbitrary Power, when Arbitrary Power of itself alone, without the other unwieldy Clog of *Papery* at the heels of it, has been ever adjudg'd so impracticable in *England*, that the very Conquerour himself, the *Norman William* thought not his Victory secure, but by engaging to adhere to *William* the Confessour's Laws, or at least, to introduce no *Novelties*, excepting such as *Tryals by Juryes*, or the like; and these to the *Preservation*, not Infringement of the Peoples Liberties. And the long and Bloody *Baron's Wars*, upon a less Invasion of Liberty, are a sufficient Demonstration of the *Uneasiness* of *Englishmen* under any *Poke* whatever. Insomuch that a popish Successour, under the undeniable Suspensions, and at best, but faint Affections of his People, is so far from a Capacity of Tyrannizing either with Armies, or without them, that he has no other Support both of himself and his whole Party, but by following the forementioned Measures of *Richard the Third*, and either to intrat himself by making of *Wholesome Laws* for the people's Freedom and Tranquillity; or at least by keeping within the Bounds of those wholesome Ones they have already made for their Security.

Now with all these *Numerous* and undeniable *Blocks* in his way, why must a popish Successour be able, or indeed possit with so *Enthusiastick* a Presumption (for nothing less than *Supernatural Inspirations* will do it) as to think himself able to accomplish that very Thing in *England* which was never done by Monarch before. Nay, to make the Presumption a little more prodigious, this very Successour, who of all the Kings since the Creation, has the worst Tools for such an *Archivement*, must be the first and only person that is for undertaking it. For as a National Slavery is always the work of Time, and can get footing at best but by slow and subtle Encroachments; and likewise, if at all, is a thousand times more Feasible from a Prince that is the People's Darling, than one that is their Aberration. How unfit a Prince will a popish Successour be, for so hazardous an Attempt, when the continual and united Jealousies of his Subjects will prevent the first part of the Danger, by fore-

watching even the least Surprize or Arbitrary Encroachment upon them, and next will never furnish him with half hands enough to perfect the Undertaking.

Well, notwithstanding all this, there are a sort of People in the World that shall make Answer, that Arbitrary Power in a Popist is not a thing so new, nor so unpracticable, when the Government of the now French King is to manifest a Testimony to the Contrary. And truly there are but too many Incendiaries in this Age, that distract the Brainless part of Mankind with almost no other Gorge, Viz. That the French King's Standing-Armies are to be the Pattern of a popish Successour's Government, and the Perfection of his Hugonots, the very Face of the Protestants in England; whilst under the Rosa, Popery and Slavery are to Copy from no other Original.

As this is one of the main Pretensions of the Whig-Fears, and indeed the Top-Demonstration of Popery and Arbitrary Power; so when truly examined, you'll find it just such an Apparition as O'er a bloody Pilgrims; the more terrible, the more ridiculous. For 'as 'tis the common Fate of all popular Arguments on that Subject, so much the more formidable, still so much the more silly the Phantom.

For first, not to insist much upon the General Mistake of Mankind, when possibly the French Arbitrary Power is infinitely magnified above what really it is; for excepting the French King's now and then fleeing an Over-rich Cheating Courtier a little Arbitrarily, and thereby, in truth, making but a Hospital of his own, I could never yet learn by those that know the French Government, that any man's *Mum* or *Tum* was illegally taken away, or any Man's Life or Fortune stood or fell, but by the Judicial Process of the Laws of the Land. 'Tis true indeed, his Wars have been Expensive, but then his Revenues have been large to support them; and not only that, but his Foreign Depredations have supplied the greatest part of the Expence. Nevertheless whatever Arbitrary Taxes he may have rayed, to the Injury of any particular aggrieved Subject; or whatever Tyranny he may have exercised over the distressed and persecuted Hugonots, if either of the two can be properly Arbitrary or Tyrannical, when past into a *Koh*, and made a *Verre* enacted by parliament, as both the Taxes and the present Hugonot Persecution are; the French King's Arbitrary Encroachments in France, are no precedent for a popish Successour's Intimation in England, and that because the State and Constitution of the Two Kingdoms are so extremely different, that there is not the least Ground for such a Foundation here as there.

For first as to the Nature and Genius of the People. In France, the Peasants at Origine have not enjoyed half the Privileges and Immunities of the Endborn people of England. And therefore under that gross Education, as knowing no better, and being in a manner inured to Slavery, 'tis no such great wonder to see the French Commons submitting to such Oppression, as indeed, why should they otherwise, when they submit but to Law.

And if the French King has any greater Ascendancy over his Parliaments than the Kings of England over theirs, to perform all this, why should that be any Rarity, when in reality they are of so different a Constitution from those of England, that they are rather the settled Magistracy of the Nation than any thing like our Parliaments; and as ours are of the people's Election, theirs in a manner only the King's, every Member of the French Parliaments holding his Office not only for Life, but even to his Heirs, unless alienated by the Prince upon a *Ferme*, or any personal Dislike; that in short, as being the Creatures of the King, they are truly more like a Turkish *DIVAN* than an English House of Commons.

But in fine, to make a Parallel of our Dangers between the State of the two Nations, which in truth is bringing North and South together. BECAUSE a popish French King, with the Majority of the Kingdom of his own Religion, the Religion Established by Law, and flourishing in Glory; by help of such vast Armies too, intirely of that Religion, and thereby principled for his own Service, can squeeze some particular of his Subjects Purse a little Arbitrarily, and oppress and persecute the poor forlorn Hugonots, a Party infinitely the Minority, disabled too from all power, and at highest, but suffered by the Indulgence of the State, and that even with the most favourable Aspect of the Government, under that pittance of Encouragement, that (for Example) to the whole Body of the Reformers inhabiting in that vast and populous City of Paris, there is tolerated but One Hugonot Church, and that standing like our *Pancras*, only more Miles out of Town, because I say, the French King under these Circumstances can do all this: THEREFORE (pray mark it) a popish English King with his Diminutive Romish Party, the most inconsiderable Handful of the Nation, under not only the Censure of the Law, but the utter Abhorrence of the People, with the help of an Army (if he has any) of a quite contrary Religion, and thereby wholly unprincipled for the Service intended, shall vanquish and subject the Protestant Established Religion in all its Lustre and Strength, upheld by all the Fortifications of Law, and by Numbers even to a more than hundredfold Majority; whilst the English Protestants are not only to feel the French Hugonots Smart, but (if either the Fanatical Suggestions, or the popish Character speaks Truth) to groan under a hundred times (Oh! *Monstrum Horrendum!*) more dismal Persecution and Slavery: the present French Arbitrary Stretch being little more than a Fleabiting to our total Abolition of our Laws, Liberties and Religion.

But to make this French Goblin more monstrous still, there are some People that go a Bowes Shoot farther yet, and will tell you, that by the aforesaid almost Omnipotent Things called Standing-Armies, a popish Successour shall not only crush our Protestant Laws and Liberties to pieces himself, but likewise beat our very parliaments to that degree, as to force them to the giving up our very

Birtherights to him, nay, to the very passing of at once both *Popery* and *Slavery* into *Law* it self; and then Lord have Mercy upon poor lost *England*. For alas! the same Absolute uncontrollable Sovereignty that the *French King* has over his *Parliaments*, is (they'll tell you) the intended *Scheme* of a *popish Dominion* in *England*. And then where! Oh where! is our *Religion* and *Liberties* when that black Day once comes?

Now in the Name of *Lucifer*, what *Infernal Impudence* reigns in the World, when such *Rank* & such *Nonsensical Stuff* as this can be asserted by *Rogues*, and credited by *Fools*. For besides the most infamous Calumny that this execrable *Imputation* throws upon the whole Body of the Nation, *Viz.* That *Englishmen* shall be such *rascals*, such *abjects*, such *despicable Wretches* and *Cowards*, as out of any personal Fear whatever, to yield up their *Laws*, *Rights*, and *Religion*, to the Ruine of themselves and their Posterity, and thereby offer, as it were, even their own *Throats* to the *Slaughter*. What Relation has the present Management in *France* to that of *Popery* in *England*, or the *French King's* *Parliamentary Influence* to that of a *popish Successour's*?

For whatever extraordinary Obedience or Subjection the *French Parliaments* may yield to their King in the grant of any *Oppressive Impositions* upon the Subject to advance their King's Exorbitant Power and Greatness; are the *French King's* Arbitrary Endeavours to root up the *Foundations* of his *popish Laws* and the *Establish'd Religion* of *France*, which *vice versa*, is the Case in *England*; so that if a *popish Successour* can hector our *English Parliaments* to no farther a *Compliance* than the *French King* does *this*, the Devil an Inch of Ground will *Popery* get in *England*; for as I take it, the *French Parliaments* are all *popish*; and as such, are in so little danger of their *Religion*, that truly their Prince in the other Extream is in the *highest Extravagance* of Advancing it.

So that unless we state the Parallel between the two Kings *Thus*, *Viz.* (Supposing the *French King* a *Hugonot*, which is but turning our *Tables*) that then both his *popish Armies* and *popish Parliaments* would nevertheless be awed and bullied into that *intire Submission* to him, as to abolish the *Fundamental Laws* of the Kingdom, and thereby subject themselves and all their Brethren *Papists* to the self same *Persecution* and *Slavery* under the *Hugonots*, that the *Hugonots* suffer under *Them*: without which Supposition his *Tyranny* is wholly alien to our *popish Successour's*; and nothing but the most Villanous *Phanatical Sophistry* dares cant at this wretched rate, to pretend to make the *French Tyranny* a *Model* for *English Popery* to work by. But put the Case there were a *French Hugonot King*, and that had the forementioned purpose in Agitation, either by *Armies* or *Parliaments* (as *plausible* as the *French Genius* is supposed to be) his *Ill Success* in such an *Exploit* might be soon guesst, by the *Difficulties* and *Obstructions* of their *Hugonot Henry* the 4th. in his way to the Throne under but a suspicion of inclining that way. And consequently, what worse Success would attend the like *popish Changes* in *England*, under the manifest *disproportion* of the *English Papists* to the *French Hugonots*, is past dispute,

However, if neither *English Armies* nor *English Parliaments* can do the *popish Feat*, there's one last Expedient yet to banquish all *Obstacles*, and that I assure you, (if no small Authors may be believed) a most puissant one, *Viz.* If the *popish Hands* in *England* are too weak to enslave us, this *popish Successour* shall borrow the Assistance of *popish Neighbours* to help out, and so what cannot be done by *Domestick Forces*, shall be perform'd by a *Foreign Army*, call'd over on purpose. This Expedient I confess, is so much the more remarkable, as it has some little Affinity to *Bedlow's St. Jago Expedition*, and truly has sometimes had the Honour to be harangued upon even in a *House of Commons*, as no small Danger from *Popery*.

But notwithstanding the Authority and Veracity this Projection may seem to arrogate from its Admission into an *Honourable House of Parliament*; upon due Examination, I am half afraid, 'twill prove but one of the *Observer's* downright *Twangers*. For if this *popish Successour* be for setting up *Popery* by pitch'd *Battles* and plain *Conquest*, and that too, by *Outlandish Ayde*; in the first place he must have far more than tenfold as many *Foreign popish Hands* as he has of his own to pretend at least to a strength able to subdue *England*; nay, and in truth, here's one *unlucky Circumstance* attending, that is, if he can borrow *popish Neighbours*, 'tis odds but the *protestants* may borrow *protestant Neighbours* too upon occasion; for Princes have as often lent *Armies* to succour *oppress'd Subjects*, as to assist *Oppressing Tyrants*. But let that pass.

But supposing the best face of the thing, that there were some *Chance* for him in this bold Cast, and that after his setting of *Honour*, *Life*, *Empire* all at a Throw upon the hazard of *War*, there were only an even Lay of *Keeping* or *loosing* them, a *Cesar* aut *nullus*, 'twere a little more pardonable Venture. But as the Devil would have it, there's not one syllable of this in the Matter. For if overthrown, he's so *irrevocably lost*, that possibly not only his own Ruine, but that of all his *Royal Family*, and of *Monarchy* it self goes together. But admitting he *Conquers*, the Question is; whether the *Cesarship* on the other side be so *secure* or no?

For truly, what if the aforesaid *tenfold Majority* of *Foreign Conquerours* should make bold to pass a *Civil Complement* upon this *Successour* *Militant*, and the rest of his *popish Remnant*, and fairly keep the Victory when they have got it. For I assure him little *England* is a pritty Parcel of *Terra firma*, and 'twere no small *Temptation* to *popish* or *no popish* Fingers to be a little tenacious with so fortunate a Prize. And when those *Triumphant Foreigners* have tasted the *sweet Air* of so delicate a Spot as *England*, 'tis fourty to one whether *They*, or at least the *Crown'd Head* that lends them, will be overhasty of resigning so *inviring a Trophy* as the *English Diadem*; and truly considering

dering the *Blackness* of the Cause they came over to ingage in, if any Forreign Prince can lend an Army for so *Dishonourable* a Quarrel, which indeed all Nations and all Religions must cry Shame against, with much less *Dishonour* may he wear the *Lawrel* he wins, and assume that vanquish't Kingdom to himself, when he robs but a Robber, and at most *deposes* a Cut-throat.

And therefore to make Instance in the Case, what popish Successour will venture to call over, suppose thirty or forty thousand *French* to enslave his people (and thereby at one dash loose his People's Hearts beyond all Thoughts of a Recovery) as thither indeed the *Whig* Fears seem to point) upon a Confidence that the now *French* King's Generosity, though possibly not the best Faith-keeper in Christendom, after the Accomplishment of the Conquest, will make so intire a Resignation of all Pretensions of Victory to Establish this *Absolute Popish Sultan* : especially considering the insatiate Ambition of that aspiring Prince to Universal Monarchy, and particularly to the Sovereignty of the Seas ; which though with all his present great Ships under the Maritime Weakness of France he cannot atchieve, he might intirely possess by so opportune and so important an Addition to his Conquests as *England*.

Now they must have a wonderful Stock of Faith, with no small mixture of Madness, that can really believe any popish Crown'd Head in the World will ever play so cursed a Loosing Game, and take that Path towards Popery, with two such amnable Precipices both on the Right Hand and the Left, that the very Masterpiece of the Projection is but in effect writing his own MENE TE-KEL over his own Head.

So that all the forementioned Impotence and Impossibilities of popish and arbitrary Tyrannys Introduction into *England*, being fully demonstrated ; I have only this to add ; There is no greater Mistake in the generality of Mankind, than an Imbibed Opinion, that the *Papists* think themselves obliged to endeavour the setting up of their Religion hap-hazard, right or wrong, hand over head, without Consideration or Regard to the Issue or Success of the Undertaking ; and that in fine, a popish Successour will certainly muster all Forces and all Engines to attempt the Storming of the whole Protestant Liberty and Religion, though under a tenfold Odds of laying his very Bones at the Siege.

But the Grossness of this popular Errour will appear from the past Conduct of all the *Papists* in all Ages and all Countreys, when they never attempted a Rebellion, Massacre, or any such Monstrous Design, but where they had, not only proper popish Instruments for the Service, but also a popish Strength capable in all reasonable prospect of going Through-stitch with it. Besides a Bigot in Religion is nevertheless a Statesman in the Establishing of that Religion, and excepting such Bedlamite Enthusiasts as the old Fifth Monarchy Adventurers, there's Policy as well as Faith in all Churches ; and how far soever Faith may stretch, Policy moves in the Bounds of Reason, and he that can believe the greatest lying Miracle in a Romish Legend, will never trust to Miracles in a Romish Battalia. And were a popish Successour in his Nature ten times, if possible, a Bloodier-minded Tyrant than the very Character has shaped him, if he wants Humane Strength to enslave us, let us not suspect his relying on Divine or Infernal Assistance, the Aid of Angels or Devils to help him.

And truly when a popish Successour shall seriously consider the Temper of the Head-strong English, a people always impatient of Wrongs, to that degree of Ill-nature in the Resentment and Prosecution of Ills above all Mankind beside, that whereas all other Nations cry [Run Rogue] 'tis observable the English Note is ever [Stop Thief] But above all, a People so nicely Jealous of Liberty, that the very Name of Oppression (especially from the Crown-side) without the Thing, is enough to make them slip the Bit and run stark mad ; inasmuch that a King of *England* is but too justly call'd a King of Devils ; when he considers all this, I say, a popish Successour, a thousand to one, will never venture the raising those malicious English Devils, without a Charm full strong enough to lay them again. And whatever his Inclinations might be for the Heretick Slavery, yet as

Vana est sine viribus Ira.

'Tis not the Thunder in a Popish Successour's Heart, but his Hand that can hurt us, and where the Arm's too weak, and the Bolt too untwisted, let us never trouble our Heads with fearing the Blow.

But that Point, *Viz.* A popish Successour's POWER of Enslaving, Persecuting, Burning, &c. being sufficiently discust, let us next examine the Veracity of the Character in another Point, that is, granting he either had, or fancy'd he had the Power of doing it ; Query, whither it necessarily follows that he must have the Will to do it.

The Character, 'tis true (as I said before) makes him plunge headlong into the Breach of all Promises, Vows, Obligations, Oaths and Sacraments, all the Dictates even of Morality and Common Humanity, and what not ; and renders it withall so inseperable an Impulse and Principle of a popish Conscience, that in a manner, that popish Prince that neglects so incumbent and meritorious a Duty, is little less in the popish Balance than a *Judas* or a *Julian*, &c.

Though I confess, for all this terrible Oathbreaking, the two Instances recited in the Character to prove this universal popish Infidelity are possibly the Idlest that a Man could wish to meet with. The First of them is Queen *Mary's* Breach of Promise of their Quiet Exercise of the Protestant Religion, made to the *Norfolk* and *Suffolk* Inhabitants that mounted her to her Throne, which I acknowledge was both ungratefully, and in the highest degree dishonourably done ; yet when truly weighed, is far from any thing of that damnable Law-breaking popish Perjury that the Character all along endeavours to blacken all Romish Princes with ; that on the contrary, though 'tis true,

the

she broke her *Promise* given to *Capitulating Rebels*; for the *Norfolk* and *Suffolk* Inhabitants were indeed *little better*; for as their utmost Endeavours of setting their *Lawful Sovereign* upon her *Throne*, was their absolute indispensable Duty, whatever her *Requit* might be, yet the *Chronicle* tells us they refus'd the *Queen* any Assistance whatever till they had first condition'd with her, and extorted that *Promise* from her. And if nevertheless she broke that *Promise* afterwards with them, here was no *Tyrannick Cruelty* exercised, nor any *Coronation Oath* Violated, when she only burnt them by *Law*; and as her *Coronation Oath* obliged her to rule by *Law*, 'twas only her *Misfortune* to believe the *Equity* of that *Sanguinary Law*, and accordingly, to act by it, and consequently, their *Misery* to feel the *Scourge* of it.

The 2d. Instance of a *Certain Gentleman on the Other side the Water*, that once took the *Sacrament* never to invade *Flanders*; which since he hath so notoriously broken: and the Inference from thence, that a *popish Successour* will much more break all Oaths, for the *meritorious* Propagation of his *Religion*, when a *popish Prince* has violated even *Sacraments* themselves for his *irregular, unjustifiable Ambition*; is so impertinently urg'd, that nothing can be less to the *Purpose*. For that Gentleman's Breach of his *Sacramentary Oath* is no Sin of the *popish*, but the *Man*, not a Principle of his *Religion*, but the fault of his little or no *Religion* in so slight a *Regard* of so sacred an *Obligation*, wherein his *Ambition* overpowered his *Christianity*; and possibly under his *Lust of Power*, an *Oath* upon the *Bible* or the *Alcoran* might be much of a *Strength*.

But to find a better Example of *Popish Perfidy* than the *Chara*cter affords, I acknowledge the *horrid* and most *barbarous Infidelity* of *Charles the 9th.* of *France*. and the *Impious* and *Execrable Massacre* of the *French Protestants* by that *Inhumane* and *Treacherous Monarch's* *Machinations*: which *Davila*, an *Historian* of his own *Church* describes with *Detestation*, and which all *Religions* must remember with *Horror*: but at the same time, to do *Justice* likewise to the *Hugonot* *Guilt*, all good Men ought to reflect on the three *Hugonot* *Rebellions* in his *Reign* (though whatever their *Provocation* were) as wholly *unallowable* by the *Laws of God*; and their *Daylight Bloodshed* such a *Blot* in a *Christian Scutcheon*, which nothing but the others *Midnight Murders* could exceed; and possibly those *Rebellions* no small *Incentive* to that *Diabolical Assassination*.

I confess likewise, that I have read in a more *sacred Record*, now the *Jews* upon *Piques* and *Revenge* have cut off almost *whole Tribes* amongst them; but at the same time, as 'tis certain, those *Throat-cuttings* committed upon their *Brethren*, were against their *Religion* and the *Laws of God*; and which nothing but *Exemplary Penitence* could atone, so the *Massacring Spirit* of *Charles the 9th.* when rightly scan'd, will not be found so *Canonizing* a *Qualification* in a *Romanist*, as the *World* suspects it.

For if it were really that *Signally Meritorious Principle* of *Popery*, how comes it about that there's so few *Popish Champions* in so *bold* a *Popish War*? For to instance the *Practices* of the *Romanists* in all *Kingdoms*, and all *Ages* since the *Reformation*. In the first place, in *France* (as *Dr. Burnet* in his *Preface* to his *Rights of Princes* assures us) the *Hugonots* enjoyed their *Liberties*, and the publick unmolested *Toleration* of their *Worship* for several *King's* *Reigns* together; nay, and what's particularly remarkable, the *Edicts* that confirm'd that *Toleration* were granted all by *popish Kings* and a *Majority* of *Papists* in *Parliament*, a *Favour* which was never granted to the *Papists* by any *protestant Parliament* whatever since the first *Establishment* of the *Reformation* in *England*. Nor is this *popish Good Nature* peculiar only to the *French Climate*, when so many of the *Principalities* of *Germany*, and of the *Cantons* in *Switzerland*, where *Popery* is the *Church Establish't*, have from *Age to Age* continued the same *Toleration* of the *Reformers* in the publick *Impunity* of their *Persons* and *Estates*, and the *Exercise* of their *Devotion*. Now if *Persecuting* and *enslaving* of *Hereticks*, &c. were so highly meritorious in the *popish Church*, nay, the very *Shibboleth* of the *popish Christianity*, as the *Malice* of *popish Chara*cters, and the *Prejudice* and *Fear* of *English Fools* has represented them, and that the highest of *papal Blessings* and *Seats* in *Heaven* were the promis'd *Reward* of such *Transcendent Merit*; what unpardonable *Apostacy* lyes at the *Doors* of almost the whole *Body* of *Papists* through the *World*, and what *Curses* and *Anathemas* must such wilful, such *undutiful*, and such *grateless* *Omission* of a *Duty* so *Obligatory*, the *Remissness* and *Lethargy* of so many *Kingdoms* and *Principalities* from so many *Generations* to *Generations*, deserved.

But alas! as the *Tree* is known by the *Fruit*; and the *Test* of all *Principles* and *Inclinations* (I mean, under no *Restraint*) are their *Actions*; and as all those *popish Governments* have the *popish Majority* and *Strength* on their side; and thereby are in a visible *Capacity* of *Oppressing* and *Persecuting* their weaker *Heretick Subjects*; therefore this general *Indulgence* and *Mercy* is an *unanswerable* *Argument*, that under the *POWER* of *Tyranny* and *Cruelty*, they manifestly want the *WILL*. And whilst their *Lenity* and *Clemency* so much exceeds even that of their *Boasting Accusers*, and the *Favourable Concession* of *Romanists* to *Hereticks*, outdoes that of *Hereticks* to *Them*; the *Injustice* of so false an *Attainder*, and so infamous an *Imputation* is sufficiently confronted from such a *Cloud* of numerous *Examples* to the *Contrary*; whilst it does no more follow, that a *popish Successour*, by the *Tenents* of his *Church*, must hold himself obliged to be a second *Charles the 9th.* or any thing like him (had he the *Ability* of being so) than that every *popish Priest* must be a *Mariana* or a *Clements*, and every *Papist* a *Babliac*.

So that if it be true, as the *Chara*cter affirms, That a *popish Successour* in *England*, that keeps *Faith* with *Hereticks*, and *Rules by Law*, will be the greatest *Laughing-Stock* of the whole *World*, whilst all *Roman Catholick Princes* will deride the *Feebleness* of his *Arm*, and the *Tameness* of his *Spirit* for sparing a *Faggot* in *Smithfield*, &c. 'Tis very strange that those very *Princes* should so loudly exclaim against him for that very *Fault* in which *Themselves* are five hundred times more criminal

than *He* can be, by reason their greater Romish Transgression (if it be one) is so much more *inexcusable*, as *THEY* have popish Opportunity, Strength, Power and Dominion to capacitate them for such a Persecution, and the Devil an *One* of them has *HE*.

And at the same time (if it be the *Doctrine of Rome*) the *Pope* himself too, in so extraordinary severe an *Imposition* upon an *English Romanist*, must be prodigiously *partial*, nay, a worse than *Egyptian Taskmaster*, to lay such rigorous Injunctions upon so *Impotent* a popish Sovereignty here in England, and yet allow such *profuse Dispensations*, and such *extravagant Latitude* to the more powerful Papists through all the World beside.

Now after this pretended Brittleness of either *Promises Obligations* or *Oaths*, let us come to the next dreadful *Phænomenon* of *Tyrant* and *Barbarian* in a Popish Successour. And that is, that his Zeal for his Church will supersede all the Dictates of *Honour* and *Glory* whatever, and nothing so *horrid* or *villanous* that a Papist, though never so great, either *Prince* or *Potentate* will stand out at, when for the Advancement of *popery*.

The Intended Proof of this Assertion is the very *Master-stroke* of the whole *Character*, Viz. *Verbatim*, as follows.

The Glory of a Papist! A pretty airy Notion! How shall we ever expect that Glory shall steer the Actions of a popish Successour, when there is not that Thing so Abject, that he shall refuse to do; or that Shape or Hypocrisy so scandalous he shall not assume, when Rome, or Rome's Interest shall command; nay, when his own petulant Stubborness shall but sway him: As for Example; For one fit he shall come to the protestant Church, and be a Member of their Communion, notwithstanding at the same time his Face belies his Heart, and his Soul is a Romanist: Nay, he shall vary his Disguises as often as an Algerine his Colours, and change his Flag to conceal the Pirate. As for Instance; another fit, for whole years together, he shall come neither to one Church nor 't'other, and participate of neither Communion; till ignobly he plays the Unprincipely, nay, Unmanly Hypocrite so long, that he shelters himself under the Face of an Atheist to shrowd a Papist. A Vizor more fit for a Banditto than a Prince. And this methinks is so wretched and so despicable a Disguise, that it looks like being ashamed of his GOD.

Now to the Eternal Shame of the *Contagious Air* of 79, and the most Flagitious Depravity of that *Infamous Season*; as nothing but the most unpardonable *Malice* encouraged and animated by the *Licentiousness* of those *Libertine Days* could have produced so exquisite a *Mass of Rancour*; so the Reader is to observe that it was *exactly* Calculated for that very Age 'twas written in, an Age when all *Venome* and no *Reason* was in Mode. For first, next to the old *High Court of Justice*, here's the most Impudent *Tribunal* set up, and a Prince most audaciously *Arraign'd*, and *Sentenced* for a *Downtright papist* in his heart at the same hour he's a Member of the protestant Communion, an Accusation beyond the possibility of *Humane power* or *Knowledge* to make proof of, and of which only God, that knows the Secrets of Hearts could be Judge. I remember I read of a Tyrant that hang'd a Fellow for a *Sower Look*, as a certain Conviction of a *False Heart*. But the *Character* goes a Bows Shoot beyond him, and pretends to *Impeach Thoughts*, and *Adjudge Souls*. And though neither the highest Scrutiny of *Law*, or Inquest of *Humane Reason* can inspect any further than into *Visible Conformity* and *Ocular Demonstration*: No matter for that, the popish *Character* can Out-fadom all *Laws*, and out-see all *Reason*, to find the vilest of *Dirt* to throw in the Face of *Princes*.

The second *Inglorious* and *Monstrous Blot* in the Princely Scutcheon, as the *Character* designs him, is the *Being a Papist*, and yet not daring to go to the popish Communion. Which by the way, is all *Supposition* still, and no *Proof*. However, granting the Supposition, that he is one, does not the Express Law of the Land say, That no papist, at least, no *Passive* popish Subject of *England*, though never so Princely Born, shall go to the popish Communion. Yet nevertheless, here's a Prince most arrogantly asperst and vilified in the most barbarous Terms of *Unprincipely*, *Unmanly Hypocrite*, *Pirate*, *Banditto*, &c. and all this for obeying the very *Laws* of the Land, and consequently, for performing the *Duty* of a Subject and a *Christian*: Nay, and in the *Character* way of Demonstration, he does an Act that looks like no less than being ashamed of his God, in submitting to the *Government*, and thereby obeying the very *Ordinance of God*. If *This* be not a *Master-stroke*, as I told you, I know not what is.

But truly to be plain with this single Paragraph in the popish *Character* (no disparagement to the rest of that *Libel*) no Impartial Reader but would swear the Devil himself could not have crowded more *Spight* and *Virulence*, and less *Sence* into fewer Words; and yet to shew the misery of the time 'twas writ in; I was so far from an *Original* in that almost universal Spirit of *Bitterness* that then *Reigned*, that the Reader can't forget (as indeed the whole Nation has but too much Cause to remember) that if he at that time walked but *Westminster* or *Oxfordwards*, he might have seen five hundred Men together, much my *Betters*, that talk'd, and what's worse, acted as bad as I writ, and truly with as much, or more *Ball*, and full as little *Reason*.

Having thus fairly stated our Case, and proved the Imbecility of our Fears, and the Invalidity of the Arguments used for the Danger of *Popery* in *England* this Roughter way, through *Perjury*, *Barbarity*, &c. I shall come to the second Head of my Discourse, and enquire what Danger there is of its Introduction by *Persuasion* and *Rhetorick*, and all the gentler Means of a *National Conversion*.

Now I confess, the pardoning of an Offender lyes in the Prerogative of the Crown, and the punishing, or not punishing of popish Priests, or any other Romish Emisaries, is wholly in the Breast of the Prince. And upon the Admission of a popish Sovereign to the Throne, 'tis presumed, that the Numbers of popish Visitants from Foreign Seminaries, will not only Encrease, but likewise act less Clandestinely than formerly under the Confidence of Connivance at least, from a Prince of their own Persuasion, and a Relaxation of all the penal Statutes against Popery.

The Eminent Danger of Popery from this Inlet, raises no little Dust in the Character; and as if the whole Defence of our Protestant Religion was secured by no other Barriere than by keeping out popish Emisaries at Swords point, and hanging and Quartering of Priests and Jesuits, and the severest Execution of the Statutes of Recusancy; which by the old Figure *Petitio principii* taken for granted, the Character most furiously lays about, to prove the Moral Impossibility of such a barbarous unnatural popish Successor that shall hang and quarter those very Men that from the bottom of his heart he believes, are the undoubted Disciples of Heaven, and Pillars of Christianity, &c. And if he doth not do all this, the Protestant Religion is upon it last Leggs, and our whole Church under a manifest prospect of being undermined and blown up.

Though by the by, here's another piece of Richard and Baxterisme in the Case: For if popery shall make its Entrance, and sweep all before it this way, and by meer dint of Logick or Sophistry shall pervert the Church of England, what need was there of all the aforesaid Brayling, Roasting and Cut-throating, &c. to do the Job.

However, as this very Indulgence and Remission of the penal Laws is no more than what has been granted by the Clemency of the Crown even for Ages together, and all without one popular Murmur, or the least Blot in the Royal Arms; the next Question is, what necessity of Shackling the Prerogative, and tying up a popish Successor to harden Meat than all his protestant Predecessors; or what more mortal Crime is that Indulgence in a Papist than in all the protestant Crown'd Heads before him.

Oh yes, infinitely more they'll tell you: for the Case is different, the popish Hopes will be more Lively, their Courage more daring, and Themselves by their popish Prince, more publickly and more solemnly embraced and countenanced; so that the Inconveniences attending us from these more propitious Royal Smiles to the protest Enemies and Supplainers of our Religion, will, God knows, have those Victorious Effects, which all the feeble popish Efforts before could never obtain.

Well, imagine all this extraordinary Benigne Aspect towards popery, and for once, let us put the Case the Worst that can be. Let us suppose all the Indulgence or Incouragement to Popery from a popish Successor, that the highest Struck of the Prerogative can give it. Nay, let us suppose a popish Chappel in every Hamlet and Mass sung in every Parish in England, and to officiate in this Work, the whole Tribe of St. Omers, Doway, and all the rest of the English Seminaries abroad, transplanted hither, to perform the Mighty Operation. What would all this do to bring in Popery? Nay, let the whole Colledge of Cardinals come over with them too, they would be almost as inoffensive to the protestant Religion as the Jewish Synagogue, and altogether as unable to make a National Conversion to Papisme, as the other to Judaisme.

For Instance, who are they, that these numerous popish Missionaries shall convert? The Understanding part of the Nation, Men of Reason and Learning? Not at all. For let the popish Numbers increase as they please, the popish Arguments are but the same, whether defended by ten, or ten hundred Romanists. And therefore they that have their Principles of Faith, and the Grounds of their Religion Rooted and Confirmed by sound and well pondered Judgment and Mature Consideration, will no more be shaken by all the popish Numbers they can send over, than all the popish Volumes they have written. Besides, what greater Afront can be put upon our Religion, it self, than to imagine it so weakly supported, as to be so much as capable of being thus overthrow'n.

Who then shall they Convert? the Ignorant Multitude. No, Them less than the other. For as the others have Sense to defend themselves, These have that which is as strong, or stronger, and more Invincible, viz. Deafness, Prejudice and Resolution. For let any man seriously consider the Genius of the People of England in that point, and but fancy a Jesuit, a Priest or any other popish Emisary, tampering with the poorest high-shoo'd, thick skull'd Clown, to possess him with a Faith in Transubstantiation, Purgatory, Saint-praying, the Pope's Infallibility, or any other of the Terrible Romish Principles, and instead of making him a Proselyte, upon the least Breath of that sort of Ayr, he should be so far from hearkening or listening so much as to the Means of a popish Conversion, so far from attending even to the Eloquence of Angels upon that Subject, that he should sooner look downwards for the Cloven-foot of the Seducer that utters it. For certainly those very people that have always been so Mazed and Night-mazed with popery, that they have scarce seen any thing else but popish Specters and Goblins even at the very Shadow of it, will fancy nothing less than Belzebubs and Lucifers at the real Appearance of it.

The Reduction indeed of England to the Romish Religion is a thing as easily SAY'D, either in an Amsterdam Coffee-House, a popish Courant, or an Oxford House of Commons, as a Tale out of the Seven Champions, and truly with as much Credibility: But alas! when it comes to the DOING once, the Papists will find that the whole Body of the people of England, even to a Nemine Contradicente (at least, not one in a hundred excepted) if without any other Defence of their Belief, are still those Opinarors in Religion, that maugre the general Ignorance of the Multitude, or the great Learning or Rhetorick of the Jesuites, they'd be no sooner perswaded to quit their plain English Bibles, nay, not so much as poor Sternhold and Hopkins, to listen to an unintelligible Latine

Wass, or joyn in an *Ora pro nobis sancte Paule, sancte Petre, sancte Loyola*, and the rest of the Fraternity of *Major, or Minor Saints*, then they'd kneel to the *Talmude* or the *Alcoran*, nor be no more perswaded into the possibility of a *Waser's Transubstantiation* into a *Drity*, than of a *Cartwheel* into a *Star*: and without these and the rest of the *Romish Fundamentals*, where's the *Restoration* of the *Romish Faith*, or the *Progress* of a *Popish Propagation* in England.

But to confirm this certain *Truth* from a more substantial *Authority* than my own. 'Tis the very Opinion of the Reverend Dr. *Burnet* himself, a *person*, let me tell you, under no small *Pains-taking* for the *protestant Religion*, and as a *Churchman*, under no common *Consecration* from *popish Dangers*, and therefore not at all likely to lull us into a *false Security* of our *Religion*. The Instance of which Opinion I find in the 9th. page of his *Preface* to the *Rights of Princes*, as follows;

'Tis the *Maxime* of the *Popes*, not to reform *Abuses* in their *Church*, for if some *Corruptions* were once acknowledged, and amended, that would give credit to the *Complaints* which the *Heresicks* made, and be a *publick Confession*, that the *Church* had *Erred*, and would set on foot a humour of making *Changes*, which could not be easily limited or managed. These *Politicks* prevailed at *Rome*, so that instead of removing *Abuses*, all were justified and maintained, and yet humanely speaking, it is not to be imagin'd but that if some more palpable *Abuses* in the *Worship*, such as the scandalous Use of *Images*, the denying the *Chalice*, and saying the Office in an *Unknown Tongue*, had been corrected, the *Reformation* could not have made so great a *Progress* as it did. *Wise Men* are unwilling to make great *Changes*, and the *Rabble* are wrought on, not so much by *Speculations*, and subtle and learned Arguments, as by *prejudices* to some *publick Abuses*, of which they are *ALL* sensible; and while these are continued, 'twill be easie to heighten their *Dislike* of them, and to lead them almost into any *Opinions*, to which the hatred they bear to the *Abuses* may any way dispose them. And the defending or maintaining of *Abuses*, which cannot be defended, endangers the whole *Cause* in the Opinion of those who judge of *Parties* in *Gross*, and not by the *Retail* of particular Arguments.

So that to summe up the Matter: Here's the whole *Cause* of *Rome* in a manner wholly lost by the *Gross Abuses* in that *Communion*. And what between the *Invincible Obstinacy* of the *Romanists* on one side, never to recede from those *Abuses*; and the *Rabble's* unanimous *Disgust* against them on the other, as being apparent even to all *Capacities*; here's the greatest *progress* of the *Reformation*, flowing from almost no other *Channel*; and by consequence, if the *Original Prejudice* against those *Abuses*, could open so broad a Gate to the *protestant Religion*, the present more irreconcilable *Antipathy* against *Rome*, heightned by so many successive popular *Inflammations*, will make the *Resumption* of that *popish* *Monit* so more universally *nauseous*, that it will undoubtedly much more contribute to the *Confirmation* of the *Protestant Religion*, than ever it did to the *Introduction* of it.

For let but any reasonable Man consider, that during so many Ages of Impunity to the *Papists* from the long *Mercy* of the late *Kings of England*, when *Recusancy* went unmolested and unregarded, and neither *Papist*, nor *popish priest*, either punished, or examined: excepting some few Families, that bred up their Children in their own Perswasion, what Conversions have the *popish party*, and all the *Romish Missionaries* made in *England* for half a hundred years last past? So far from any Increase, that on the contrary, they have from *Generation* to *Generation* apparently dwindled less and less till they are now scarce a handful in consideration of all *England*. And if *Popery* and *Jesuitisme*, with all their *Learning* and *Insinuations* under such *Royal Indulgence* have made such feeble progress in the *Conversion* of *England*, that they have dayly lost ground, not gain'd it; shall the yet larger *Indulgence* of a *popish Successour*, with the permission of their *popish Preests* barefaced, the multiplying of their *Numbers*, or the Influence of *Regis ad Exemplum* do the Work? The quite contrary. For suppose the *popish Priests* a hundred times more numerous, and a hundred times bolder than now, yet as the *popish Seducers* are increased, so likewise under the dismal Apprehension of a visible *popish Successour* the popular *Aversion* will so much more increase too, and thereby become the more impregnable, whilst the *Universality* of their *fear* and *hate* will make them so much the more *Fortified* against the utmost *Assaults*. Besides, if the *Jesuites* have made so little Advances of *Popery* formerly in *England*, that (granting it true that's said of them) they have been put to the poor shifts of herding with *Fanaticks*, and disguising into *Conventicle Preachers*; what Encouragements (Oh wonderful!) are they like to meet, when they throw off the *Vizor*, and walk by day, in the open *Propagation* of a *Religion* so universally loathed, that it wants the subtlest of *Artifices* and *Disguises* to obtrude even the least Tenet of it into the *World*; at least, our Part of the *World*.

But surely nothing in nature can be a more ridiculous Supposition at this time of day, as that the Example or Favour of a King in Case of *Popery*, shall contribute towards the People's Embracing it, when undeniable Experience tells us, that the very Aspersions of but *popishly affected*, has lost our Kings so many Hearts, nay One of Them (with horror be it spoken) his very *Crown* and *Head*. By consequence, how many more Hearts shall *Popery* in earnest loose a true *Popish King*? and what little hope of gaining *Proselytes* or *Friends* to a real *Romanist*, when the meer *Imagination* has rays'd such contagious *Desertions* and *Enmity* even to the best of *Protestant Crown'd Heads*. And therefore how wretched a piece of *Sophistry* must that be that Imposes on the unreasoning *World* so impudent a piece of *Falshood*, viz. That *Popery* and a *Popish Successour* will find such favourable

favourable Stars in England, when on the contrary, the bare Notion of Popery and popish Councils have been attended with such *Fatality*.

However, to answer a little nearer yet to the Danger of Popery's coming in through the *Remissions* and *Neglect* of executing the Laws against it, and the Indulgence and Incouragement of the Prince to promote it, I have only this Request to make to thee, thou poor *frighted, half-witted Creature*, that fearest all this Danger (for nothing of sense can fear it) to lay thy hand upon thy Heart, and answer me this Question. Amongst those Profelites that the aforesaid *Toleration* and *Encouragement* of the popish Successour, and the Witchcraft of the Pope and Jesuits are like to make, Art thou thy self one of the number that is in that danger of turning *Papist*? Now to answer for thee in thy own Dialect, *No!* God forbid, thou'lt say, what, shall I turn to a Religion that has nothing in it but *Superstition* and *Idolatry*? a Religion worse than *Paganisme* and *Judaisme*, a Religion that consecrates *Daggers*, and canonizes *Murderers*, that makes nothing but *stabbing of Kings*, & *Massacring whole Nations* the only meritorious Act of *Christianity*; and do you think that either the *Insinuations* of Priests, or the *Flattery* of Kings themselves, or any Earthly Reward shall make me turn such an *Apostate* from *Truth*, as to *damne* my Soul and renounce my God; no, I have more Assurance in his good *Grace* than to imagine he'll abandon me to such a Thought: no, no, my Fear is not for my self. But alas! though I shall never turn *Papist*, too many others will; and when these *Jesuites*, *Priests*, and *Willains* have perverted the greatest part of the Nation to their *Idolatry*, and thereby come to be able to set up the *Romish Religion*, with all the old *Fire and Faggots* that belongs to it, then shall such honest *Protestants* as my self be burnt at a Stake, for not turning *Devil* too for *Company* with them. And what a miserable Condition will the poor *Protestants* be in in that dreadful day.

Why thou fool, canst thou thus make this *confident & Resolute Answer* for thy self, and art thou so secure for thy own part, and only *suspectest* the Danger of a popish Conversion from the weakness of thy Neighbour. If that be all, trouble not thy self, nor distract thy little Brains for nothing, but for thy Comfort, examine thy Neighbours Hearts as thou hast done thy own, and of ever hundred amongst them thou wilt find almost every where at least *ninety*, nine of them that have the same dreadful Opinion of Popery as thou hast, and as utter an *Abomination* of it as thy self, with the same *Confident Assurance* of themselves too; nay, and that have only thy very *Reasons* of fearing it. How ridiculous therefore must thy Fear be, when if thou art secure, they are so too. And if so, where then are the *Infinite Numbers* of those *Weak Brothers* that the Pope's *Emissaries* shall subdue, and that *Majority* of a perverted Nation that shall Establish and set up this *Debuchadanezar's Image*, and doom thee to *Fiery Furnaces* for not kneeling with them to Worship it.

If the Dint of *Persuasion* and *Indulgence* then be all the Introduction of Popery, and this the highest Flight of a popish Successour (as indeed it is) all our Dangers are quite *vanisht*, and the more the Nation *abhors* Popery, the less Cause it has to fear it, whilst the *Universality* of the *Destruction* is the certain *Security* of keeping it out; and none but *Fools* or *Madmen* can be frightened by the *Apprehensions* of it that way. For the *Blacker* the *Ecind*, the less power he has over us, and they that are above *Temptation* need not fear the *Devil* himself.

But beyond all these various Pretences for Popery's coming in, there's one more general Argument almost in all *Mouths*, which we find daily urged, and that bears no little sway in *Vulgar Apprehensions*, *Viz.*

Why is it impossible that Popery should come in again, and that too, by Law Establish't? Experience plainly tells us, that *Henry the Eighth* lay'd the Foundation of the Protestant Religion, nay, and by a popish Parliament too. For by a *Romish Parliament* was the Pope's *Supremacy* destroyed, by a *Romish Parliament* the *Monastery's* and *Abbey-Lands* confiscated, and that very Monarch, after the Continuation of Popery by a Reign of more than half a thousand years, in the very Infancy too of the Protestant Religion, when possibly the Protestants then in England, were a less handful than are the *Papists* in England now. This very King I say, with so small a Party of *Protestants*, could nevertheless lay the very Corner Stone, that the whole Reformation was afterwards built upon, and that too by *Act of Parliament*. And why on the other side, shall it be so impossible for a popish Prince, with *Henry the Eighth's* *Courage* and *Conduct* withal, after not a hundred and fifty years Reign of the Protestant Religion, to be likewise able to do the same Favour for Popery, and lay the very Basis of it even by *Parliaments* and *Law*. And a Protestant Parliament now, as a popish one then be so managed or Influenced, as to give a main Lift to the Work.

Besides, why should the Change of the Religion be so *wonderous* or difficult a Deed under a popish Monarch now, when upon every Change of the Prince's Faith since the Conquest, the Establish't Religion of the Kingdom has been changed with it. For Instance, after *Henry's* good Stroke towards it, Did not an Infant Prince, *Edward the Sixth*, in poor seven years time Establish the Protestant Religion by Law? And did not *Mary* his popish Successour subvert it again by Law, and by Law restore the very Pope's *Supremacy*? And lastly, Did not the Protestant Queen *Elizabeth*, after her, trample both Pope and Popery under Feet, and confirm that very Protestant Religion that Reigns at this Day. And why shall a Popish Successour now, with as much Zeal and Industry as his Predecessours miscarry in that very work in which not one of them fail'd before him.

There is nothing that possibly passes for a more *Authentick Confirmation* of all our popish Dangers than this One Assertion so universally received for *Current Sterling*, by being only taken as a *Lump* of *Trust* unweighed and unexamined. But when considerately and thoroughly inspected, all rational

Men must blush to be deceived by so light and so drossy a Popular Tradition.

For to begin with *Henry the Eighth*. In the first place, here neither is, nor can be the least *Motive* for the present Protestant People, or their *Representatives* to make the least Change whatever in the present Church of England, in any kind answerable to the several *Inducements* that wrought those Changes in *Henry the Eighth's* Time.

For first, as no small *Encouragement* for the Reformation, the People had then contracted a general and just *Odium* of the whole Clergy, strangely occasion'd by the Murder of *Hunn*, a Merchant of London in Prison. This *Hunn* being sued in the *Legates Court* for Non-payment of a *Mortuary* to his Parish Priest; in return, sued the Parish Priest in the *Temporal Court* for a *Premunire*, for bringing the King's Subjects before a *Foreign* and *Illegal Court*. This incensed the Clergy so much, that they threw him into Prison for *Heresy*; where having several Articles exhibited against him, upon Confession of part of them, and begging Mercy, he was only enjoin'd *Penance*. But not being prevail'd upon to let fall his *Suite* in the *Temporal Court*, the Bishop's *Chancellor*, a *Doctor*, and other of his Officers inhumanely Murdered him in Prison, by breaking his Neck with an *Iron Chain*, and other Wounds given him upon the Belly; and then hanged him up in his own *Girdle* to possess the World that he hanged himself. And what was yet worse, upon a full Detection of the Truth of this Murder, the Bishops of *Durham* and *Lincoln*, to palliate the Guilt, proceeded to charge him with new *Heresies* after Death, and having found a *Wickliff's Bible* in his House, they condemn'd him as an *Heretick*, and burnt his Body. All which Proceedings being now looked upon as the Act of the whole Clergy, they lost the Affections of the People to that degree that they could never recover them; and nothing more disposed the People to the embracing of the *New Preachers* than the *Re-sentment* of so infamous a Murder, committed and patronized by the whole Clergy.

[Hist. of Ref. pag. 14, and 15.]

And then for the Changes made in Parliament. The Suppression of *Monasteries*, one of their Acts, was no more than what was design'd, and begun in some Measure by Cardinal *Woolsey*, and the Pope himself, and that long before the Breach betwixt the King and Him, who granted a *Bull* to destroy several of them, to convert into *Bishopricks*; [Ref. pag. 22.] the scandalous and lewd Lives of too many of the *Monks* and *Fryars* being obnoxious even to Rome it self. Though 'tis true, the King and Parliament proceeded to a total Suppression of them afterwards for the same Intent of erecting new *Episcopal Sees*; though indeed the vast profits arising from their Sale, through the *Extravagant Profuseness* of *Henry the Eighth*, were not wholly converted to that Use; notwithstanding, part of his Promise was performed, *Viz.* In his constituting six new *Bishopricks*, and making Allowance for fourteen *Deanaries* and *Prebendarships* to fourteen Bishop's Sees.

But to gain the Parliament to the King's Party in the Destruction of *Monasteries*, there was that which Governs the World, Interest in the Case; which was no small Wheel in the Machine. For the King selling of the Lands at *easy Rates* to the Nobility and Gentry; by this Policy the Parliament Members, as Purchasers, by the Temptation of such good penny-worths, were engaged to assist the King in the Maintenance of the Changes made. [Ref. pag. 223.]

And for another part of *Henry the 8th's* Reformation, *Viz.* The censuring and condemning of *Bulls*, *Indulgences*, *Shrines*, *Pilgrimages*, and *Relicks*, with the pulling down of *Images*; the scandalous Impostures of several of them by the fraud of the Priests, being publicly discovered, [Ref. pag. 242.] created no little aversion in the People. But besides all that, here could never be a more pleasing Change to them than so beneficial a part of Reformation, *Viz.* The freeing them from all those Ecclesiastick *Romish Dreins*, that had so long swallow'd almost half the Wealth of the Kingdom, in which too many of them had been too great Sufferers, not only through their own, but also the deluded Superstition of their Bigotted Ancestors, and by which no less than whole Families had been impoverished and Undone, through the pious Frauds and continual Suckings of those Church Hosts.

And lastly, for the Exclusion of the Papal Supremacy, the above cited penalty of *Premunire* incurred both by the whole Clergy and *Layty* of England in submitting to the Pope's *Legatine Power*, contrary to Law, as against the Act of *Provisors*, contributed no little matter both to the Clergy and Commons Submission to the King in the point of that Supremacy. Besides, to facilitate the Assumption of it, it was plainly proved by that *Provisor Act*, and other Substantial Records, that the Pope's Encroachments in England were but *Usurpation*, and the Supremacy in reality *ab origine & de jure* inherent in the Crown; and therefore the Resumption of it by the King, no more than a Challenge and Reprizal of his own Inherited *Prerogative*.

As these were all the Changes made by *Henry the Eighth*, the Popish Religion being so far from abolish'd by him, that he rather strook at the Court than Church of Rome; witness the Act of the six Articles made by him, defending the greatest and principlest Tenets of Rome, by no less than Capital Punishments, and a Parliamentary Reinforcement of the old Statute *de Hereticis comburendis*; [Ref. pag. 147.] the *Heretick Burning* continuing through his whole Reign. As these I say, were all the Changes made by *Henry the Eighth*, instrumental to the present Reformation; and that too, not without Obstructions, witness several *Rebellions* occasioned by this Change; the one of 20000 Strong in *Lincolnshire*; another more formidable one in *Yorkshire*, called by the Rebels, *The Pilgrimage of Grace*, attended with a general Insurrection in all the North. However, as I said before, here is no *Motive* or *Inducement* now for the like Parliamentary Compliance with a Popish Successor, to make any, the least Change Instrumental to the *Romish Restoration*.

For

For first, supposing (how notoriously false soever) an equal *Mutability* or *Disposition* in the People now, to return to *Rome*, as then to depart from it. Here's no stigmatizing *Brand of Murder*, or any other publick *Perpetration* or *Avowing* of any Villany whatever to taint the whole *Protestant Clergy*, and thereby *withdraw* the People's Hearts from them.

Here's no *Holy-Cheats* and *Superstitious* priest-*Impositions* practis'd to *drain* the People's Purfes to gratifie a scandalous, voracious *Clergy*. Or any detected *Abuses* and *Corruptions* to disgust and exasperate the People against them.

Here's no least *Dormient Statute* or *Title* whatever, for a *Popish Successour* to lay hold of, in favour of the *Papacy's Return* into *England*, as there was for its *Expulsion*. The Fence of our present *Protestant Constitution* being so strong against it, and all Pretensions of *Rome* so utterly extinct and abolish'd. Neither is here any *Premunire* incurred by the whole *Clergy* and *Nation* to affright, or *daunt* them into any sordid *Condescencion* or *Grants* in *Diskindness* to our *Religion*.

And lastly, here's no *Fleeing* of an *Overgrown, Overrich Church* in the Case. (The present *Church Revenues* under so many *Impropriations*, being no more than will but just support its *Dignity* and *Pastors* but with *Subsistence* and *Decency*.) No *Ecclesiastick Booty* nor *Prize* to bribe or allure an *Avaricious Parliament* to *weaken* or *impoverish* their Church for the temptation of sharing the *Spoil*.

But above all other *Obstacles* against *Rome*, her's an *Absolute Impossibility* of a *Temporizing Clergy* to favour *Popery*. For supposing even the most barbarous *Insinuation* of their *Fanatical Enemies*, *True*; and that *Whammon, Interest, Sympantry*, (how *rascally* soever that *Infamous Suggestion*) were above *Religion* with them. Yet nevertheless the utmost *Influence* of a *Romish Prince* could never warp them to any such *Execrable Apostasy*; by reason the *Indispensable Celibaty* of the *Romish Clergy* would totally *exclude* the present Members of the *Church of England*, as being *Married Men*, from any *Share* or *Hopes* under a *Romish Government*, whilst instead of *Preferment* or *Interest*, nothing but *Degradation* and *Beggery* could attend them.

And for an *unanswerable Disparity* between *Henry the Eighth's Influence* towards the present *Protestant Religion*, and a *Popish Successour's* towards *Popery*. The *Protestant Religion* with an inviting *Face* was in a *State of Innocence*, untainted by any of its *Corrupted Professours* with any thing like *Parisian Massacres, Irish Rebelions, or Gun-powder Treasons*; enough of themselves alone to open that *uncloseable Chasme*, that never to be cemented *Breach* between *Englishmen* and *Popery*; that *Popery* could not now gain *three* *Proselytes* to a *hundred* gain'd in *Henry the Eighth's Time* to the *Protestant Religion*.

But here I cannot but take notice of one *Gross Mistake*, that's commonly receiv'd for *Truth*, Viz: That *Henry the Eighth* betor'd his *Parliaments* to what he list'd. Which is oftentimes made use of as an *Argument*, that a *Popish Successour*, with the *same Courage* may do the like with his; when on the contrary, they acted only by their own *Inclinations*; and when any thing was propos'd by the King that went against the *Grain*; not all his *Menaces* could force them to a *Submission*. For Example, when a Bill had pass'd the *House of Lords* for regulating a common Practice then in *England*, of defrauding the King and several of the *Lords* of their *Advantages* made by *Wards, Marriages, and Premier Seisin*, by Men's making such *Settlements* of their *Estates* by their last *Wills*, and other *Deeds* to that purpose. Yet notwithstanding the utmost pressure both of the *King* and *Lords* for redressing that Abuse, the *Commons* rejected the Bill [Ref. pag. 116.] And as to the *Reformation*, some part of it was of their own seeking. For Example, in his 22d. Year, the *Commons* complain'd to the King of the grievous and intolerable *Severity* of the *Ecclesiasticks*, for calling Men before them *ex Officio*, and laying *Articles* to their Charge without any *Accuser*, and then admitting no *Purgation*, but causing the Party accused either to *abjure* or *burn*. Reform. Pag. 116. And indeed in all the *Reformation* they rather drew with him, than were driven by him.

And to shew the vast *Difference* betwixt the *Operation* of the Prince, either by *Edward* or *Mary* towards the *Change* of the *Religion*, and the working of a *Change* now.

In the first place, besides the daily *Converts* made to the *Protestant Religion* in *Edward's* Reign, which added *Strength* and *Vigour* to the *Reformation* wrought by that Prince, as the *State of Religion* then stood the *Popish* and *Protestant* Party were grown in a manner to be an *Equal Division* of the *Nation*, and 'tis not to be wondred, that where the *Weight's* *even*, the *Soveraign Power* added to the *Ballance*, could turn the *Scale*; as both in his and his *Sister's* Reign. Either Party having an *Easie Game* to play, whilst the *Respective Monarch* might with small *Difficulty* turn up his own *Religion Trump*, when he had half the *Cards* in his hands.

Besides, the *Law* had then so weakly provided for the true *Settlement* of either *Religion*, that the greatest part of the *Ecclesiastick Changes* then, lay almost wholly in the pleasure of the Prince: For after the *Parliament* had fully invest'd *Henry the Eighth* with the *Supremacy*, they impow'rd him as *Head of the Church*, to dispose of all *Episcopal Sees* by *Letters Patents* during pleasure. (Abrid. Ref. Book 2. pag. 4.) and the *Bishops* by the same *Authority* had the like *Jurisdiction* over the *Inferiour Clergy*.

This unbounded *Latitude* of the *Supremacy* continuing through both the next *Reigns*, a great part of the *Changes* was owing wholly to this *Prerogative*; whilst King *Edward* made choice of a *Clergy* of his own *Perswasion*; and in like manner *Queen Mary* plac'd or displac'd her *Bishops*, and remov'd all the *Inferiour Clergy* *ad Libitum*, turning out whom she pleas'd, without any *Form of Process*, or special *Matter* object'd against them. All which (Abridg. B. 2. pag. 249.) was done by vir-

true of the Queens being *Head of the Church*; which though she condemned as a *sinful and sacrilegious Power*, yet she now employ'd it against those *Bishops*, whose *Sees* were quickly filled with *Men* for her *Purpose*.

So that nothing could make a greater *Turn of Church Affairs* in the Kingdom in those *Days*, when under such a *Total Alteration of the Clergy*, and all ready at hand to step into their *Seats*, the whole *Interest of the Adverse Religion* through the forementioned *Equality of Parties* could not but be *extreamly shaken*, and the *Prevalence in Parliament* be highly mov'd by no other *Spring*. Besides, the *Act De Hereticis comburendis* was then *unabolish'd*, and as the *Determination of Heresy* lay in the *Breast of the Clergy*, here was an *easy leap* into all the foregoing *Severities of Rome* even by the *Law* it self. Inasmuch that either of the *Religions* could not properly be call'd by *Law Establish'd*, whilst our *Pastors* and our *Fold* were in a manner at the *Will of the Sovereign*, and there wanted but little more than the *Royal Breath* to drive us to the *Right or the Left*, the *Sheep or the Goats*.

But all this is so prodigiously remote from the *present State of England*, and the *Religion now Establish'd*, that *Light and Darkness* can be scarce more *dissonant*. For besides the infinite *Disproportion* of the *Popish Numbers* in *Queen Mary's Reign*, to *Ours*, enough of it self to silence all *Dispute*; a *popish Successors* Removal of the *present Protestant Clergy*, and the *Introduction of Priests and Jesuits* in their *Room*, as *Head of the Church*, is no more in his *Prerogative* than the *Government of Transylvania*: The *present Bishops and Clergy* holding for *Life*, and only to be *displaced or silenced* upon *Crimes or Insufficiencies* adjudged or condemned by the *Protestant Censure and Sentence*. And all the *popish Clergy* so *incapable* of their *Places*, that they are *Aliens* to the *Nation*, under an *attaint of Treason* upon the very *Assumption of their Sacerdotal Orders*; and so shut out from our *Church-Ministry* by *Parliamentary Oaths, Tests, and Abjurations*, that nothing but the most *Diabolical Papal Dispensation*, and a *Conscience even Brimstone Proof* could introduce them; were there really *Room* for their *Admission*.

But alas! considering in what *Equilibrium* Religion then hung, whatever *Concurrence* the *Prince* could then obtain from his *People* in *Parliament* in favour of his *own Perswasion*: The *Genius of England* is now quite another thing. All our *Parliaments* for almost a hundred years last past, have been so far from granting even the *least Concession* to the *Crown* in favour of *popery*, that on the contrary, all their *Study, Votings, Labours, and Endeavours* even to a *Nemine Contradicente*, have been *levell'd* at the very *Root* of it; so far from countenancing of it, that the very *sound* of it has made them fly out into the most rapid *Torrent of Contradiction* even beyond the *Duty of Subjects*, and instead of *Complimenting* either *Pope or Popery*, they have tyed up their very *Hands* even from the *best of Protestant Crown'd Heads*, and in their *highest Extremities* denied them their most *reasonable Demands* in the most pressing *Necessities* of the *Crown*, and all for the *Apprehension of popish Designs*, and for keeping the *least String* of their *Purses* from *popish Fingers*.

I need not instance what *Load of Miseries* attended the late *Royal Martyr* from this *Fatal Original*. Neither do I urge this in Relation to those detestable *Regicides*, the corrupted *Limbs* of that *Cre- crable Senate*, that under the *Vizor of Religion*, were plotting the most *Infernal of Mischief*; and so from the false *Alarm of popery*, denied their *Sovereign All Things* only to make him *Nothing*. No, as *All Men* are not *Monsters*, and even in that *Accursed Parliament* there were some *honest Men*; yet those very *honest Men*, those that by the *universal Delusion* were *enchanted into False Fears*, and so design'd nothing but *Truly the Prevention of popery*, were yet under that *Terrour*, so *jealous* of their *Prince*, so *Deaf* to his *Interest*, and so *inexorable* even to his most *Crying Wants*, and all for *battering these fancy'd airy Castles*, that in the *vehemence of their Zeal* they contributed to the *very Designs of his Murderers*; and how *ignorantly* soever, heap'd together the very *Coals* to the *universal Conflagration*; so far too, that they had only *Time* to detect the *Infernal Imposture*, and deplore the *dire Effects* of their *miserable Mistake* too late.

Besides, to come a little nearer home, What *dismal Consequences* were the late *Malignant Con- junction of Fears and Jealousies* in the same *Fiery Trigon* producing again? What *Demi-Gods* and *Nation-Saviours* did the whole *Vox populi*, nay, the very *sensible Men* of the *Nation* make of those very *Varlets*, which now their *Opened Eyes* and *waken'd Senses* (I appeal to their own *Consciences*) tell them are those *flagitious, unparallel'd Villains*, that would shame a *Gibbet*.

And yet the very *Loyallest* of all our late *Members of Parliament*, for they were not all *Shaftesburys* nor all *Sidneys*; neither such that were for *Associating to Kill-Kings*, to *harp out Popes*, nor *answering of Filiners* out of *Buchanan's and Miltons*, nor *seating the God Old Cause* at the *Right Hand of G O D*. Not those that made *popery* the *pretence* alone to manage their own *Hellish Republick Machinations*. But only those that (alas, and well a day!) had been *Beuk-Blaw'd* a little out of their *right Wits* by the *forefaid Nation-Saviours*, and so were for *combating of Popery*, possibly for the *Real Preservation of the King and Kingdom*. Yet the very *Loyallest* of these *Men*, I say, were wrapt up to that *height of perverseness*, that to use the gentlest *Terms* I can find, they thought they could never do little enough even for that *very King* attested by their own *unanimous reiterated Acknowledgments* to be the very *Itimus* that kept *P O P E R Y* from *Surrounding* us; and on whose *Only Thread of Life* the whole *F A T E* of the *Protestant Religion* depended.

I shall not trouble my self with the Repeating the Diversity of *Statutes* recited in the *Character* to instance the various *Bandyng* of the *Succession* of the Crown in *Henry the Eighth's* Reign, designed there as an Argument of *Justice* for a *Parliamentary Bill* of *Exclusion* against a *Papish Heir*. For whatever different Settlements of the *Descent* of the Crown that King and his *Parliaments* were pleased to make, occasioned by the *Intercity* of his *Daughter's* Titles, grounded upon that long controverted Point, the *Divorce* of *Queen Katherine*, the Mother of *Queen Mary*; and therefore not at all enacted as an *Exclusion*, but a *Confirmation* of the *Right Heir*.

However, as far soever as a *Parliamentary Power* may pretend to extend in that Case, all these *Statutes* make nothing to the purpose for *Justification* of an *Exclusion* for matter of *Religion*.

For had those *Parliamentary Proceedings* been a *Warrant* or *Precedent* for any such *Exclusion*, never was a more *urgent Necessity* than in *Queen Mary's* Reign, of laying hold of such a *Pretension*. For considering the State of *Religion* in her Time, when looking back to the two last King's Reigns, so formidable a Progress had the *Protestant Persuasion* made, and the Inclinations of the People lean'd so much towards the *Reformation*, that the very *Change* of the Prince was enough to turn the whole *Balance*; and therefore as all her *papish Measures* were under a manifest prospect of being broken to pieces under a *Protestant Successour*, and that Successour was notoriously foreseen in her Sister *Elizabeth*, so much that *Bishop Gardiner* (speaking of her) could say, *That their burning of Hereticks was only vainly cutting off the Branches, whilst the Root was still alive*. Yet nevertheless it was so far from entering the Breasts of a *papish Sovereign* and a *papish Parliament* to *Exclude* a *Protestant Heir*, that *Dr. Burnet* in his *Abridgement of the Reformation*, Book the 3d. page 325. says as follows. *A Bill was brought into Parliament, confirming the Letters Patents which the Queen had granted, or might grant. This related to the Foundations of Religious Houses; but only Coxly opposed this, and insinuated, that perhaps the Queen intended to dispose of the Crown in prejudice of the Right Heir; at which the House express'd so great a Dislike, as shew'd they would not have it so much as imagined, that Lady Elizabeth could be excluded. He had a publick Reprimand given him for insinuating a Thing so much to the Queen's Dishonour.*

Now notwithstanding here was a Queen so Zealous for Popery, and a Parliament so officiously forward in Establishing of it, that they gave their Queen possibly one of the most Ample Royalties that ever Parliament lodged in the Prerogative, *Viz.* the confirming indefinitely all *Letters Patents* that the Sovereign either *Had*, or *Might* grant; yet still this very Parliament utterly abhorred even the *Imagination* of so infamous a Projection as an *Exclusion Bill*: nor did the Bigotted Queen herself ever debate her self to low as to make use of this Act of Parliament, or any part of her Prerogative for so *Dishonourable* a purpose as the Prejudice of her Sister's Succession.

Now to compare Cases. If both a *papish Prince* and a *papish Parliament* detested the *Exclusion* of a *protestant Successour*, though in so *increasing* a Juncture, and so truly an *Impending Danger* to their Religion from that Succession, and that too, when her *Parliaments* had declared the *Divorce* of *Queen Katherine*, *Queen Mary's* Mother, unlawful; and consequently might have foreclosed the Right of *Elizabeth* under the most specious Pretext even of *Illegitimacy* it self. On the contrary, why should a *protestant Monarch* and a *protestant Parliament* now Strain Honour and Consciences beyond the very *Papists* themselves, and exclude a *Royal Heir* upon *Pretension* of being a *papist*, though with never so undoubted a Right, and above all *pretensions* of *Scruple* or *Dispute*, and that under little, or indeed no Danger to our Religion at all, a Religion not only so invincibly Fortified with so many strong *Bulwarks of Law*, but likewise by that most Impregnable of all *Bulwarks*,

Defendit Numerus junctaque umbone Phalanges.

The almost *Totality* of the Nation (comparatively speaking) against so feeble and scattered a Remnant of *Papists*, and so universal an *Odium* of *popery*.

I shall not think it worth my while to make much Reply to that part of the *Character* that treats upon *Passive Obedience*, and so boldly justifies the taking up Arms against an Oppressing Monarch. 'Tis enough that *Great Point* of our *Christianity* has been the Subject of *Nobler Pens*, and therefore the discussing it is a province above me. I shall only give the Reader this Query. If the *Great Lord* of our Salvation could enjoy the turning of the other Cheek even to Injuries received from our Equals; I would fain know what part of *Christianity* can allow Resistance to God's Anointed? Let it suffice, that all that part of the *Character* was written by the Direction of the Right Honourable the *Earl of Shaftsbury*, after an Amendment made in the *Character* by the Advice of that *LOYAL Peer*, bidding me speak more favourably of *Rebellion*.

Thus have you heard, not only all that the *papish Character*, but likewise the popular Fears have urged for the pretended Danger of *Popery* and *Arbitrary power*. And I doubt not but all understanding and unbiassed Readers will be fully satisfied of the unreasonableness of that *Epidemical Jealousie* that has so long infected the Head and Brains of the Short-sighted populace through those *Scare-crows*. I shall only now give the Reader his last Farewell of the *papish Character* in the Concluding Paragraph of that Pamphlet.

After that whole Libel by a *Tautological sort* of *Rhetorick*, a great many accumulated Words, but especially gay *Allegories*, has over and over again drawn a *papish Successour* only in so many

ture of the Queens being *Head of the Church*; which though she condemned as a *sinful and sacrilegious Power*, yet she now employ'd it against those *Bishops*, whose *Seats* were quickly filled with *Men* for her *Purpose*.

So that nothing could make a *greater Turn of Church Affairs* in the Kingdom in those *Days*, when under such a *Total Alteration of the Clergy*, and all ready at hand to step into their *Seats*, the whole *Interest of the Adverse Religion* through the forementioned *Equality of Parties* could not but be *extreamly shaken*, and the *Prevalence in Parliament* be highly mov'd by no other *Spring*. Besides, the *Act De Hereticis comburendis* was then *unabolish'd*; and as the *Determination of Heresy* lay in the *Breast of the Clergy*, here was an *easy leap into all the foregoing Severities of Rome* even by the *Law* it self. Inasmuch that either of the *Religions* could not properly be call'd by *Law Establish'd*, whilst our *Pastors* and our *Fold* were in a manner at the *Will of the Sovereign*, and there wanted but little more than the *Royal Breath* to drive us to the *Right or the Left*, the *Sheep or the Goats*.

But all this is so prodigiously remote from the *present State of England*, and the *Religion now Establish'd*, that *Light and Darkness* can be scarce more *dissonant*. For besides the infinite *Disproportion* of the *Popish Numbers* in *Queen Mary's Reign*, to *Ours*, enough of it self to silence all *Dispute*; a *popish Successors Removal of the present Protestant Clergy*, and the *Introduction of Priests and Jesuits* in their *Room*, as *Head of the Church*, is no more in his *Privilege* than the *Government of Transylvania*: The *present Bishops and Clergy* holding for *Life*, and only to be *displaced or silenced* upon *Crimes or Insufficiencies* adjudged or condemned by the *Protestant Censure and Sentence*. And all the *popish Clergy* so *incapable of their Places*, that they are *Aliens to the Nation*, under an *attaint of Treason* upon the very *Assumption of their Sacerdotal Orders*; and so shut out from our *Church-Ministry* by *Parliamentary Oaths, Tests, and Abjurations*, that nothing but the most *Diabolical Papal Dispensation*, and a *Conscience even Brimstone Proof* could introduce them, were there really *Room* for their *Admission*.

But alas! considering in what *Equilibrium Religion* then hung, whatever *Concurrence* the *Prince* could then obtain from his *People in Parliament* in favour of his *own Perswasion*: The *Genius of England* is now quite another thing. All our *Parliaments* for almost a hundred years last past, have been so far from granting even the *least Concession* to the *Crown* in favour of *popery*, that on the contrary, all their *Study, Votings, Labours, and Endeavours* even to a *Nemine Contradicente*, have been *levell'd at the very Root of it*; so far from countenancing of it, that the very *found* of it has made them fly out into the most *rapid Torrent of Contradiction* even beyond the *Duty of Subjects*, and instead of *Complimenting* either *Pope* or *Popery*, they have tyed up their very *Hands* even from the *best of Protestant Crown'd Heads*, and in their *highest Extremities* denyed them their most *reasonable Demands* in the most pressing *Necessities* of the *Crown*, and all for the *Apprehension of popish Defens*, and for keeping the *least String* of their *Purses* from *popish Fingers*.

I need not instance what *Load of Miseries* attended the late *Royal Martyr* from this *Fatal Original*. Neither do I urge this in Relation to those *detestable Regicides*, the *corrupted Limbs* of that *Cre-credible Senate*, that under the *Vizor of Religion*, were plotting the most *Infernal of Mischief*; and so from the *false Alarm of popery*, denyed their *Sovereign* All *Things* only to make him *Nothing*. No, as *All Men* are not *Monsters*, and even in that *Accursed Parliament* there were some *honest Men*; yet those very *honest Men*, those that by the *universal Delusion* were *enchanted into False Fears*, and so design'd nothing but *Truly the Prevention of popery*, were yet under that *Terrour*, so *jealous* of their *Prince*, so *Deaf* to his *Interest*, and so *inexorable* even to his most *Crying Wants*, and all for *battering these fancy'd Avry Castles*, that in the *vehemence of their Zeal* they contributed to the *very Designs of his Murderers*; and how *ignorantly* soever, heap'd together the very *Coals* to the *universal Conflagration*; so far too, that they had only *Time* to detect the *Infernal Imposture*, and deplore the *dire Effects* of their *miserable Mistake* too late.

Besides, to come a little nearer home, What *dismal Consequences* were the late *Malignant Conjunction of Fears and Jealousies* in the same *Fiery Trigon* producing again? What *Demi-Gods and Nation-Saviours* did the whole *Vox populi*, nay, the very *sensible Men of the Nation* make of those very *Varlets*, which now their *Opened Eyes and wak'd Senses* (I appeal to their own *Consciences*) tell them are those *flagitious, unparallel'd Villains*, that would shame a *Gibbet*.

And yet the very *Loyalist* of all our late *Members of Parliament*, for they were not all *Shaftesburys* nor all *Sidneys*; neither such that were for *Associating to Kill-Kings*, to *keep out Popes*, nor *answering of Filmers* out of *Buchanan's and Miltons*, nor *seating the God Old Cause* at the *Right Hand of God*. Not those that made *popery* the *pretence* alone to manage their own *Hellish Republick Machinations*. But only those that (alas, and well a day!) had been *Beuk-Blaw'd* a little out of their *right Wits* by the *forefaid Nation-Saviours*, and so were for *combating of Popery*, possibly for the *Real Preservation of the King and Kingdom*. Yet the very *Loyalist* of these *Men*, I say, were wrapt up to that *height of perverseness*, that to use the gentlest *Terms* I can find, they thought they could never do little enough even for that *very King* attested by their own *unanimous reiterated Acknowledgments* to be the very *Jesus* that kept *POPERY* from *Surrounding* us; and on whose *Only Thread of Life* the whole *FATE* of the *Protestant Religion* depended.

I shall not trouble my self with the Repeating the Diversity of Statutes recited in the Character to instance the various *Banding* of the *Succession* of the Crown in *Henry the Eighth's* Reign, designed there as an Argument of Justice for a *Parliamentary Bill* of Exclusion against a *Papish Heir*. For whatever different Settlements of the *Descent* of the Crown that King and his *Parliaments* were pleased to make, occasioned by the *Inticacy* of his *Daughter's* Titles, grounded upon that long controverted Point, the *Divorce* of *Queen Katherine*, the Mother of *Queen Mary*; and therefore not at all enacted as an Exclusion, but a *Continuation* of the *Right Heir*.

However, as far soever as a *Parliamentary* Power may pretend to extend in that Case, all these *Statutes* make nothing to the purpose for Justification of an Exclusion for matter of Religion.

For had those *Parliamentary* Proceedings been a *Warrant* or *Precedent* for any such Exclusion, never was a more urgent Necessity than in *Queen Mary's* Reign, of laying hold of such a *Pretension*. For considering the State of Religion in her Time, when looking back to the two last King's Reigns, so formidable a Progress had the *Protestant* Persuasion made, and the Inclinations of the People lean'd so much towards the *Reformation*, that the very *Change* of the Prince was enough to turn the whole *Balance*; and therefore as all her *popish* Measures were under a manifest prospect of being broken to pieces under a *Protestant* Successour, and that Successour was notoriously foreseen in her Sister *Elizabeth*, so much that *Bishop Gardiner* (speaking of her) could say, *That their burning of Hereticks was only vainly cutting off the Branches, whilst the Root was still alive*. Yet nevertheless it was so far from entering the Breasts of a *popish* Sovereign and a *popish* Parliament to Exclude a *Protestant Heir*, that *Dr. Burnet* in his *Abridgement of the Reformation*, Book the 3d. page 325. says as follows. *A Bill was brought into Parliament, concerning the Letters Patents which the Queen had granted, or might grant. This related to the Foundations of Religious Houses; but only Coxly opposed this, and insinuated, that perhaps the Queen intended to dispose of the Crown in prejudice of the Right Heir; at which the House express'd so great a Dislike, as shew'd they would not have it so much as imagined, that Lady Elizabeth could be excluded. He had a publick Reprimand given him for insinuating a Thing so much to the Queen's Dishonour.*

Now notwithstanding here was a Queen so Zealous for Popery, and a Parliament so officiously forward in Establishing of it, that they gave their Queen possibly one of the most Ample Royalties that ever Parliament lodged in the Prerogative, *Viz.* the confirming indefinitely all *Letters Patents* that the Sovereign either had, or might grant; yet still this very Parliament utterly abhorred even the Imagination of so infamous a Projection as an Exclusion Bill: nor did the Bigotted Queen herself ever debate her self so low as to make use of this Act of Parliament, or any part of her Prerogative for so Dishonourable a purpose as the Prejudice of her Sister's Succession.

Now to compare Cases. If both a *popish* Prince and a *popish* Parliament detested the Exclusion of a *protestant* Successour, though in so threatening a Juncture, and so truly an Impending Danger to their Religion from that Succession, and that too, when her Parliaments had declared the *Divorce* of *Queen Katherine*, *Queen Mary's* Mother, unlawful; and consequently might have foreclosed the Right of *Elizabeth* under the most specious Pretext even of *Illegitimacy* itself. On the contrary, why should a *protestant* Monarch and a *protestant* Parliament now Strain Honour and Consciences beyond the very *Papists* themselves, and exclude a *Royal Heir* upon Presumption of being a *papist*, though with never so undoubted a Right, and above all pretensions of Scruple or Dispute, and that under little, or indeed no Danger to our Religion at all, a Religion not only so invincibly Fortified with so many strong *Bulwarks of Law*, but likewise by that most Impregnable of all *Bulwarks*,

Defendit Numerus junctaque umbone Phalanges.

The almost Totality of the Nation (comparatively speaking) against so feeble and scattered a Remnant of *Papists*, and so universal an *Odium* of Popery.

I shall not think it worth my while to make much Reply to that part of the Character that treats upon *Passive Obedience*, and so boldly justifies the taking up Arms against an Oppressing Monarch. 'Tis enough that *Great Point* of our Christianity has been the Subject of Nobler Pens, and therefore the discussing it is a province above me. I shall only give the Reader this Query. If the *Great Lord* of our Salvation could enjoy the turning of the other Cheek even to Injuries received from our Equals; I would fain know what part of Christianity can allow Resistance to God's Anointed? Let it suffice, that all that part of the Character was written by the Direction of the Right Honourable the *Earl of Shaftsbury*, after an Amendment made in the Character by the Advice of that *LOYAL Peer*, bidding me speak more favourably of Rebellion.

Thus have you heard, not only all that the *popish* Character, but likewise the popular Fears have urged for the pretended Danger of Popery and Arbitrary power. And I doubt not but all understanding and unbiassed Readers will be fully satisfied of the unreasonableness of that Epidemical Jealousie that has so long infected the Head and Brains of the Short-sighted populace through those Scarecrows. I shall only now give the Reader his last Farewell of the *popish* Character in the Concluding Paragraph of that Pamphlet.

After that whole Libel by a Tautological sort of Rhetorick, a great many accumulated Words, but especially gay Allegories, has over and over again drawn a *popish* Successour only in so many

several Disguises ; as one while making him a *Peter* with his *Harp*, and then his three Kingdoms are in one General Conflagration : another time an *Alexander* in his *Cups*, and then every honest protestant *Clytus* that doth but shew his drunken *Frenzy*, is immediately his *Frenzy's* Sacrifice. Another while he's in the Prophet *Elisa's* Dream, and then the poor Protestants are the very Birds and four legged Beasts that bob at his Mouth, with this Label over their Heads, *Rise, Slay, and Eat*. In another place, instead of *Pater patrie*, he's nothing but a downright *Lupus Agri*, and then we are only Sheep and Lambs. *Cum multis aliis*, &c. In short, having dashed him through all the Elements, and transformed him into more several *Bestial* Shapes than ever *Jupiter* Whored in ; after the Character has all the way brought us to universal and inevitable Destruction, and Enslaved both *Us* and our posterity, till the Admission of a popish Successour at last is no less than a Plot of *G.O.D* himself to scourge a Nation, and make three Kingdoms miserable, a Design form'd by the Irresistable Decree of Heaven, either for our Sins, or what Cause, so it's self best known, so lay a Groaning Country in Ruine, &c. After all this, no sooner is this Ruinous Doom pronounced, but the Character immediately proceeds in *hac verba*.

' Upon the Supposition of a popish Heir we must not conclude, that 'tis only the poor distressed Protestants that shall feel the Smart, and stand the Mark of Slavery and Martyrdom. A popish King has that pestilential Influence, that he blasts even the very party he smiles upon, and entays a Curse upon his dearest Darling Favourites. As for Instance, if after this King's Reign, steps up a protestant Prince (for surely the whole Royal Blood must not all follow his Apostacy, and degenerate in *secula seculorum*) then what becomes of the popish Interest in the next Generation ; and all that flourishing Party, whom either the Witchcrafts of Rome, or the Contagion of *Regis ad Exemplum* has nuff up for Ruine. 'Tis the greatest Toyl of the next King's Reign, to make those *severer Statutes* for future Ages, to suppress the Insolencies and Follies of the past ; whilst those very Tools that were Saints but yesterday, are now truth't and dath't to pieces.

Now in the Name of *Blunder Egregious*, here's *Richard* and *Baxter* to the highest of Perfection. For here's the whole foregoing Design of the Character qualst at this one last blow. For if really all the popish and Arbitrary Movements and Acquisitions of a Romish Prince (as the Character it self affirms, which indeed by Chance is the very Oracle of the Pamphlet) will be totally crushed and destroyed under the next protestant Sovereign : and all his popish Tools and Partizans, nay, the whole Romish Cause it self given up to the protestant Justice and Revenge, that shall crush them to pieces ; so that in perfect Contradiction, instead of inextricable Slavery, universal protestant Ruine, and a total Extermination of Heresy, prognosticated all along in the Character ; here's at most but a Temporary Flourishing of Popery, and so far from a real protestant Suppression, either by Persecution or Massacres, or the Devil knows what, that we shall be strong enough to rise up under the next protestant Heir, and to pluck up and demolish even Root and Foundation all the preceding Batteries and Machinations against our Religion and Liberties, whilst the True Ruine lies in fine, not on the protestant, but popish Side. If so, I say, as the Character has unluckily started this undeniable Truth, certainly we lye under no danger of a popish Successours ever attempting that irregular popish Achievement, and setting up that Short-lived Arbitrary popish Wagon, which, as has been proved before, and is even confess't here, will be of so Calamitous a Consequence to the Interest and Safety even of his whole Party and Religion.

You see, Reader, what Incoherence, Absurdities, Contradictions, and indeed Impossibilities the popish Character is fraught with, and what notorious Stuff that is that *Revenge* and *Malice* obtrudes upon Mankind, where popery is the Theme.

But truly 'tis to be consider'd, that that Pamphlet was written and publish't, not for the Instruction of the *Seven Wise Men*, but of the *seven thousand Ill-natured Knaves*, and the *seventy thousand credulous, unreasoning Fools* of that Age, (the REPRESENTATIVE Patrons, to whom that Libel was Dedicated, not excepted from the Number) that would have swallow'd every Syllable of it, had it been ten times more lowly ridiculous than 'twas.

Now, as not only the Character, but the unpondered and groundless Apprehensions of Men, have so dreadfully predicted such a terrible bloody Revolution under a popish Successour, without one jota of proving or examining how that wondrous Change is possible to come to pass ; that the Reader may not be surprized at that weak sort of arguing in the one, and that headlong Credulity in the other, 'tis remarkable, that not one Pen that ever wrote upon Popery and Arbitrary Power, ever scribbled otherwise. For as the HOW and WHICH WAY they can be introduced into England, are not in posse, those Essential Circumstances are always stubb'd out, and nothing but a Huddle and Jingle of general Notions of Fire and Faggot Assassinations and Massacres, Popes and Devils, &c. And a Declamatory Discant upon those Tragical Heads, are ever the whole Contents of the Chapter ; and whilst the peoples Fears are set a tingling by this sort of Din and Gibberish, they are babled out of their Senses, and transported into Frenzy it self without looking farther, or searching deeper for the Grounds of their Fears. For Example, let us trace up the first Alarm of Popery and Arbitrary power even to the Fountain Head. In all the venemous Libels in the late blest Marry's Reign (for there were popish Character Writers in those Days too, though in other Names) in all the Licentiousness of that Villanous Age, and the highest Encouragement of Rebellious Senates, there were neither those Pens nor Tongues within the

the Parliament House, or *without* it, that could ever go further than to a bare general *Allegation* and *Oucriy* of Popery and Arbitrary Power; for in all the hideous Roarings against popish-Counsellors (as 'tis not the *Counsellors*, but the *Council* put in *Execution* that can hurt us) was there any Man of them all that *did*, or indeed, *pretended* to particularize those popish Counsels, or form the least Draught of any Dangerous popish Machinations whatever under the least probability of shaking our *Laws, Liberties, or Religion*.

'Tis true, there were *strange* and *wondrous* popish Incendiaries represented at work, but about doing of what, The Devil a word they inform us. Not all the *Republick Rhetorick*, nor all the *Eloquence* even of counterfeit *Fears* and *Jealousies* could lay down one tolerable *Demonstration* of the *fatal Compositions* of those popish *Fireballs* those Incendiaries were to use, or the *Constitutableness* of what they were to set on Fire. Nay, those very *Devils* that had *Impudence* enough, not only to murder the best of Kings, but to bring him to a *Scaffold*, with a solemn Pageantry of Justice, were nevertheless so far from the Confidence of pretending the popish *Strength* or *Numbers* in England to have the least *Shadow of Ability* to erect their *Romish Altars*, and subvert the *Protestant Religion*; that to carry on the popular Fears by that *Forged Sham* of Popery, and give *Body* and *Bulk* to the Goggon, they were forced to help out one *damnd Imposture* by a *Greater*, and bring in the very Church of England for *Popish* and *Antichristian* to joyn in the Plot. Nor were our later true Protestant Rome-dreaders much short of the *same Artifice*, to *crutch up* the same Cripple.

Nay, for want of any *Substantial* Pretext of the Introduction of any of the *Real Fundamental Superstitions* of Rome, they were put to the wretched Shift of making the harmless *Book of Sports*, licensed by Bishop *Land*, and an after-Service Game at *Coyts* or *Stool-Ball*, no less than all over *Rome* and *Antichrist*; yes, and to push the jest a little farther, the old Kings tolerating half a score of Priests (in Indulgence to his Queen) to wear the *Habit of their Order*, though in Reality an Object more for the *Hoisting of Boys*, than the *Converting of Men*, was screwed up to no less than a Plot upon the whole *Reformation*.

Now, as the Characterizing of such a Tyrannick popish Successour in England, is but Mounting that Chimerical *Jehu* in the Chariot where neither his *Whells* can move him, nor the *Ground* will bear him; and all the Pretensions of Fears from Popery are only *Suppositions* and *Delusions*; nay, and considering that those most violent Asserters of *Romish Dangers* in that very Age, when they had this *Advantage* to help out, *Viz.* To alledge the Old King was a *Papist in Disguise*; by which *Villanous Supposition* they had ten times a fairer Field for the pretended Introduction of *Popery* than can be under a *Visible popish Prince*; could nevertheless urge so little to the purpose, and so weakly support the Cause of such Fears: The *Contradictions, Noysse, Rumble* and *Nonsense* in the Character on the worse side of the Hedge, are a little more Excusable.

Having (I may with Confidence say) fully answered and confuted all *Appearances* or *Suppositions* of Danger from a *Popish Successour*; yet as the Minds of some People are so strangely possess'd and infatuated with those *Brainish Fancies*, and *Visionary Specters* of *Popery* and *Slavery*, that scarce the most apparent *Truth*, the most substantial *Reasons*, not *Oracles*, nay, not *Angels* from *Heaven* could Cure of *Dispel*. I shall therefore go one step further, and to dissipate all *Storms* or *Clouds* whatever from *Remewards* impending, plainly and absolutely convince them, that whatever *Scruples* may yet remain unsatisfy'd; at this present day there is not the least *Prospect* or *Idea* of any such *Threatning Successour* in the present *Royal Line of England*.

For though that *Illustrious Prince*, whom the Malice of *Antimonarchal* and *Associating Traitors*, and the Infolence of a Pack of *Seditious* and *Confederate Commons*, like the old Sons of Earth, have levelld their *spightfully* though *feeble Vengeance* at; though that great *Insurd Prince*, I say, through the *false Mirrour* of those *Anarchical Bonnetreus* has been villainously rendred almost the only *Object* of the greatest part of the popular *Jealousies*, as the intended *Underminer* of our *Laws, Religion* and *Liberties*; I shall unanswerably demonstrate the utter *Impossibility* of that glorious Prince's ever being that *Man*, or debasing himself so much, as to entertain the least Thought that way, be his Religion what ever it will.

For supposing he were really a *Convert* to the *Romish Perswasion*, what Pillar is that Prince likely to make to the *Romish Cause*? For if he be that *Convert*, either the *Pope* believes a *popish Heir* of *England* Capable of setting up the *Romish Religion*, or not capable of doing it.

If capable, as that's the present Point; Then undoubtedly (which is but a reasonable Conclusion) he has lost no *Pains* nor *Industry* unmanaged to *Advance* or *Advantage* the *Popish Interest* by such a *Convert* as an Heir of the English Crown. And if so, the only *Policy*, or indeed the only possible *Means* of favouring the least *Romish Hopes* whatever, had been to have used the utmost *Papal Authority* for enjoying and perswading him, not only to have kept himself wholly undiscovered, but likewise wholly *unsuspected* to the Kingdom by any *Abscenting* from our *Communion*, or any other *Imaginary Symtome* of such a *Conversion*.

For as all the greatest of *Inconveniencies* and *Misfortunes* have attended the whole popish Party tip on the meer *Supposition* of such a *Conversion*; and that only founded on the foremention'd *Occasion of Suspicion*. Witness the removing all *Papists* whatever from all *Offices of Trust* in the whole Kingdom, from all *Seats*, either in *State Administration* or *Parliaments* by the present *Protestant TEST*, wholly created upon that *Suspicion*; by Force of which there is not the least Admission of a *Papist* into any Place of *Power* in the Government, except by taking of the *Protestant Sacrament*,

and entering into a Solemn Oath against the *popish* Religion, and subscribing to a Recorded Abjuration, even of the greatest and most *Essential Articles* of their Faith as *Superstitious* and *Idolatrous*; and so by the most impudent *premeditated Perjury*, and setting the notorious Brand upon themselves of that sordid and scandalous *Renunciation* of their very Religion, which the poorest Soul'd *Pagan* that ever worship't but *Garlick* and *Onions* would blush at.

Besides all this weeding out of the *popish* Party from all Authority and Power, being no small *Blow* to their Interest under so weak a Number of that *Perseverance* in England. There is not any one *Calamity* that for these seven last years has befall'n the *whole popish Party*, that is not truly owing almost wholly to this *Suspicion*.

And therefore as all the *Ill Consequences* (or worse) attending them, are really no more than the *Pope* and all his *Counsellors* could in common *Reason* expect from a Nation so *extravagantly jealous* of *Popery*; whilst woful Experience might have remembranted him how *dangerous* and *destructive* even a *less Shadow* of *popish* Inclinations had been; nothing was more indispensable (I mean for the *popish* Interest) in a *popish* Heir, than all means of *avoiding* such *Suspicion*; nay, possibly even for his own secure *Access* to the *Throne*.

'Tis true, some ridiculous People have foolishly objected, That the *Deserting* of our *Communion* was for the *Advantage* of their *Cause*; it being as it were setting up the *Standard* of *Popery* to call all Hearts and Hands together; whereas otherwise the *Romanists* had been kept in *Ignorance* of the *Champion* God had rais'd for their *Deliverance*; and thereby might have neglected the glorious *Opportunity* that offered it self. — Now in the Name of *Dulness*, if any such *Deliverance* were *imaginable*, or any *Success* to the *Romish Cause* whatever, either sooner or later could be expected from such a *Convert*; or lastly, if the *Conscience* or *unsullied Glow* of that *Heroick Prince* were possible to be wrought upon to stoop to so ignoble a *Design*, as any *unwarrantable* *popish* Assistance; Why must the *Papists* be kept in *Ignorance* of his being one of them, if he were so; without some kind of publick Declaration: when 'tis notoriously known to all the sensible part of Mankind, what *Advantages* of *Intelligence* and *Correspondence* the *Papists* have above all Religions in the World, when their *Jesuites* are by the very Duty of their *Order*, the greatest *Spyes* upon *Christendom*, whilst the privatest Affairs and Secrets of *Families*, *Courts* and *Kingdoms* through all *Europe*, from hand to hand, and from *Superiour* to *Superiour* of them, are convey'd to the *Pope* himself.

So that take the whole Matter together with this *Advantage* of *Communication* even under *Confession* it self on the one side, and the foremention'd *Dangers* from a *National Jealousie* on the other, as I said before; whatever *Discovery* might have been requisite to their own *Party*, the highest Policy of *Rome* had been to have concealed the very *Suspicion* of it from the *Protestants*; more especially, if they had had any such Thing as a *King-killing Plot* in hand, or the least part of the *Salamanca Conspiracy* upon the Anvil. For then they might have made use of *Russians*, or *Screw'd Gunners*, and as *Dugdale* swears, have laid the King's Murder upon the *Presbyterians*, or any other of the scatter'd *Churches* with ten times more ease; and have hastened the *Mounting* a *popish Successor* with more Facility into the *Royal Seat*.

And therefore as nothing can be a plainer or greater *Obstacle* to all *popish Designs* whatever than this *Conduct* in the present Heir of *England*, if he be a *Romanist*, and they had an Expectation of any considerable *Advantage* to their Religion from his being one: undoubtedly there has been no *Oratory* wanting to induce him to so necessary and so *Venial* a *Disguise*, as being the most important Prop of their *Cause*. But maugre all the *Necessity* of such a Compliance, and all the *Romish Interest* depending thereupon, notwithstanding the *papal Power* of a *Dispensation* in that Case, and all the *Arts* that may have been used to that purpose; nothing is more visible than his *Indisposition* and *Aversion* to so dishonourable a *Condition* as playing the *Hypocrite*, how dispensable soever in that *Church*, or how *advantageous* soever to his own Circumstances.

Now I appeal to all Mankind what least *Apparition* of *popish Danger*, or what humane possibility of that very Princes ever being that so much dreaded *Romish Instrument* for *Arbitrary* *popish Tyranny*, through the most execrable *Violation* of the most sacred *Royal Trust*, the most flagitious of *Perjury* in the Breach of a solemn *Coronation Oath*, to trample our *Laws*, *Religions*, and *Liberties* to pieces; that has already proved himself so incapable of *dispensing* but with one poor piece of *Hypocrisy*, though against the highest *Interest* of *Rome*, though to the wakening of all the sleeping *Statutes* against *Recusancy*, tho to the rayning of *Tests*, *Oaths*, and *Sacraments*; and thereby not only excluding the Sons of *Rome* from all *Honours*, *Trusts*, and *Employments*, but likewise exposing them to the *Daily Severities* and *Persecution* of the *Laws*, nay, and very near to the shaking of his own *Hereditary Succession* to an *Imperial Crown*.

Now (I say) if this very Prince (upon *Presumption* of that *Church*) be nevertheless a Person of those rigid Principles of Honour and *Conscience*, that he durst not so much as digest so *inconsiderable* a piece of *Disimulation*, though for the highest and most Important Service to himself and his whole *Church*; how much less shall he ever condescend to the *Ignominious* and *Indelible Brand* of down-right *Perjury*, and launch into all the *Barbarities* and *Outrages* of *Tyrant* and *Murderer*, and all this too, as has been plainly proved before) with very little, or none; at least, no reasonable *Hopes* of doing himself or his *Church* any Service at all.

Besides, as 'tis utterly impossible either for *Pope* or *Papist*, even with the most *Romantick Assurance* and *Confidence* of *Success* ever to hope for a *National Conversion*, or a *Romish Establishment* in *One Age*; inasmuch that 'tis not a single *Popish Successor*, but a *Line* of *Popish Successors* that can be so much

much as suppos'd capable of going through with so difficult an *Undertaking*; what least *Shadow* of any such *Intention* can we imagine from this Royal *Heir*, when he has not only bred up his next *Immediate Heirs*, his Children in the *Protestant Religion*, but likewise lodg'd them in the Bosomes of those very *Protestant Princes*, as far from the least *Inclination* towards *Rome*, or a *Look* that way, as the whole *Choice* of *Christendom* could have pick'd out. So that upon the Issue of the whole Matter, how contrary to *common sense* is it, to think that very Prince either is, or can be so stupidly infatuated as ever to Embark in so hazardous an *Atchievement*, which (were he Crown'd to-morrow) with his years upon his back, he begins but with the latter part of a Life, and which the length of a *Queen Elizabeth's* Reign could never finish. And all this so preposterously too, as to be for building that *Romish Interest* with one hand, which he has so palpably destroy'd with the other.

Considering then, (as has been fully proved before) that *Popery* in the present State of *England*, is something like the vulgar Tradition of the *Basilisk*, it must either look us safely Dead, or we shall look that so; For there's no *Medium* in the Case, between *Conquering* or *Dying*: who in his right wits can imagine this Prince will ever Begin what he himself before hand has taken Care shall never be finish'd. And if not finish'd, will be but put into a ten times worse Condition than if never begun. And therefore not only his meer *Patre* will be our *Security*, it being impossible that any thing that has one spark of *Gloze* will ever ingage in a Cause under such Certainty of a Defeat: but likewise supposing even the utmost Suggestions true; under such an Impossibility of *Crowning the Work*, the Greater the Zeal, the more Inoffensive the Zealot: since all *Irregular* exorbitant Ferments of *Popery* will but hatch *Scorpions* and warm *Strings* for its own Destruction: the greater the *Tenderness* for his own Party and Religion, the greater the *Security* of ours.

Moreover the Character positively lays down this *Maxime*. That the *Papists* doom all out of their own Church to certain *Damnation*: and on that *Foundation* all their *Bloody Principles* are built, as thinking no Cruelty too severe, nor any Tyranny too sanguinary; but on the contrary, the most barbarous Gospel Propagation the greatest Obligation of their Religion. And therefore it tells you, A *popish Successour* will never believe he can do his Subjects an Injustice in that very Thing in which he doth God Service, or that he injures Us when he does our Souls right. And that therefore all the threaten'd Miseries, Horrors, and Desolations, &c. from the beginning to the end of the whole Character, flow from no other Source.

Now if this be truly the Tenet of a *Romanist*, and all our horrible dangers proceed from that Tenet, either our present Royal Heir must be no *Romanist* at all; or if he be one, however he absolutely differs from *Rome* in that particular Main Principle. For if such were his Faith, and such his Principles, why has he so wilfully and so egregiously contributed to his own Children's *Damnation*, not only in their severest Protestant Education, but likewise in that additional Strengthening that Damnable Perswasion by such *Fatal Marriages*, whereby he has not only endanger'd their living and dying in that Erronious Faith, but likewise secured the Interest and Establishment of that *protestant Religion* in likelihood by Them and their Heirs to the End of the World; and consequently contributed to the *Damnation* of succeeding *Heretical Generations* in *Secula seculorum*.

I have only one thing more to add for the Safety of our Religion. There is not in the World that Prince in his Nature more grateful for Services and Obligations received, or a firmer and more unalterable Friend than himself. And as the Church, and only the Church of *England* has truly and vigorously asserted the Justice and Duty of maintaining his unforgettable Succession and Inviolable Birthright, and has stood ALONE in the Gap against all the whole Crowd of his Enemies; we may confidently assure our selves, that if ever 'tis Heaven's pleasure he should be our Sovereign, that all such kind and signally good Offices will never be ungratefully requited by the most Generous of Mankind.

I shall only conclude; under this manifest Security of our Religion and Government on all hands, They that shall have Impudence enough (no Person nor Quality, in any Station whatever excepted) to persecute that Prince under the Pretence of Fear, are undoubtedly planting the same Batteries against three Kingdoms that were rais'd in his Royal Father's Reign; and a Bill of Exclusion must truly carry the Design of all the old *Remonstrances*, *Ordinances*, *Covenants*, &c. with the Soul of a Cook, a Bradshaw, and a Cromwel at the Bottom on't: and all the *Senate-House Church-proppers* under that Vizard, are only Establishing Religion with the same Brand in their Hearts that Cain built Cities. And I doubt not but the Wisdom and Loyalty of Succeeding Times will regain Sense enough to countermine all such Villany, and redeem the yet unrecovered Honour of *England* by shaming such a Second Imposture from the World.

And now to draw to a Period, I have only this Warning to give to the great Sticklers against Popery and Arbitrary Power, to have a Care that they Themselves do not bring in what they so Zealously endeavour to keep Out. For if Popery and Arbitrary Power shall ever get Footing in *England* by a *Popish Successour*, it can only be then, when by *Unlawful Exclusions*, and *Rebellious Associations* against him, they shall put him upon cutting his way to his Throne by his Sword, and consequently give him the Occasion, both by *Foreign* and *Domestic Assistance*, of gaining that Right by Conquest which is deny'd him to assume in Peace; and thereby enable him by the Power and Right of a Conquerour, to Abolish what Laws, and Establish what Government he pleases, without either straining his Honour or Prerogative. And so shall the *Irregular Designs* of defending our Religion and Li-

